

**7 September 2016**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Norwich set for most exciting international crime festival yet

Norwich is gearing up to host one of the highlights of the national crime writing calendar next week. Now in its third year, *Noirwich* Crime Writing Festival is a thrilling annual event which takes place on 15 – 18 September 2016.

International bestsellers including Ian Rankin, Peter James, Sophie Hannah and Charlie Higson top the line-up alongside some of the boldest names in the genre – making it the most exciting programme yet.

Crime writing is the most popular literary genre in the UK and over 1,500 visitors are expected to visit Norwich UNESCO City of Literature for the event.

The festival kicks off with multiple award-winning, *Sunday Times* top ten bestseller Peter James at Jarrold Books on Thursday 15 September, followed by international stars Charlie Higson and Ian Rankin at the University of East Anglia on the Friday.

WCN Dragon Hall will host an all-day celebration of crime writing - from deadly research to screenwriting - on Saturday; rounding off with a Bloody Brunch on the Sunday where visitors can enjoy a Bloody Mary and themed food with six sensational crime writers.

The winner of the *Noirwich* micro-fiction competition will also be announced.

Chris Gribble, Chief Executive at Writers' Centre Norwich, one of the festival organisers says:

“Some of the most exciting writing around at the moment is crime writing and as England's first UNESCO City of Literature we're delighted to host the third edition of *Noirwich* - in partnership with UEA and Dead Good Books. The festival brings great writing to visitors and residents alike, bringing the city alive as autumn approaches!”

Henry Sutton, Director of UEA's MA in Crime Fiction, and an award-winning crime novelist, is one of the founders of *Noirwich*. He says:

“*Noirwich* 2016 will once again be the biggest and best crime writing festival in the south eastern region. The terrific international line-up with local experts shows just what a draw the festival has become and what we in Norwich have to offer crime writing fans from around the world.”

Lynsey Dalladay, Head of Marketing, Interest Brands at Dead Good Books (Penguin Random Houses’ crime community) says:

“For the third year running *Noirwich* has excelled with a dynamic programme of events - from screenwriting to factual research to the new faces in crime writing. It’s an unmissable weekend and we’re thrilled to be a part of it.”

Elsewhere around the city, organisations have set up criminally good events as part of the *Noirwich* fringe.

Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery is hosting three events, including a Baby Bounce & Crime Time on 12 and 13 September, whilst shops and cafés in the city centre will host a special free family crime trail over the festival weekend. Things wrap up with a crime-themed open mic night, ‘True Stories: It wasn’t me...’ at Norwich Arts Centre on Sunday 18 September.

Season tickets are available. For further details on all events and tickets see [www.noirwich.co.uk](http://www.noirwich.co.uk)

**/ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

1. For more information or to arrange interviews or photographs, please contact Stephanie McKenna, Communications Officer, WCN on 01603 877177 or at [stephanie.mckenna@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk](mailto:stephanie.mckenna@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk)

2. *Noirwich* Crime Writing Festival 15 – 18 September, Norwich. The core festival partners are Dead Good Books, UEA and Writers’ Centre Norwich. Main events will take place at UEA, Writers’ Centre Norwich at Dragon Hall and Jarrold. Fringe events are held at Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Norwich Arts Centre, UEA Library, The Forum and the Maid’s Head Hotel. Tickets are for sale at [www.noirwich.co.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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 works 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 2018 as a major cultural venue for the city. [www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk](http://www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk)

6. This event is supported by Arts Council England, Jarrold, Look Sideways East, Norwich Business Improvement District, Norwich City of Stories, Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council and Waterstones.