

Wandering Words

Commissioned by National Centre for Writing
for City of Literature at Norfolk & Norwich
Festival 2022

N National Centre
for Writing

Norfolk & Norwich
FESTIVAL



Key

- Walking Trail
- Accessible Trail

Scan QR Code Here

- The Plantation Garden
- London Street
(opposite The Book Hive)
- St Martin at Palace Plain
- Tombland
- St Julian's Church

Places of Interest

- The Cathedral of St John the Baptist
- J R and R K Ellis (bookshop)
- Norwich Guildhall (Festival Box Office)
- Norwich Market
- Jarrold (bookshop)
- Dormouse Bookshop (bookshop)
- Norwich Cathedral
- DNA (bookshop)
- St Peter Parmentergate
- National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

Discover Norwich of the past, present and future through newly commissioned poems from five brilliant writers with ties to the city.

Follow the walking trail and scan the QR code at each marked location to hear an immersive audio recording of a poem, as well as sounds of the people and settings that inspired each writer’s work. All you need is your mobile phone!

This literary walk has been created to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of Norwich becoming England’s first UNESCO City of Literature. National Centre for Writing commissioned writers with a connection to the city to respond creatively to a particular place in Norwich or to an event in its history. These new works represent the breadth of new writing happening in, around and inspired by the city.



credit: © VisitNorwich

Read more at nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/wandering-words

City of Literature is a Norfolk & Norwich Festival and National Centre for Writing presentation, programmed by the National Centre for Writing.

A special thank you to our sound production partners Access Creative College – Harry Love, Jamie Lovett, William Plane, Mia Rodwell and Bill Skipp.



1 The Plantation Garden



*‘Surrounded by walkways
Which hold echoes of all of us unwoven ones
Who too have beamed and basked
In those shafts of golden light
Bloom again’*

— Piers Harrison-Reid

4 Earlham Rd, Norwich NR2 3DB

Start your journey at The Plantation Garden; a beautiful, three-acre Victorian Garden built within an abandoned chalk quarry. It was created by successful furniture maker and Baptist minister, Henry Trevor, between 1857 and the 1870s. Featuring a stunning gothic fountain, Italianate features, woodland walks, vast flower beds, and a Victorian-style greenhouse, it’s the ideal location for a spot of reading, writing or picnicking.

‘Plantation Garden’ is written and performed by Piers Harrison-Reid, a performance poet and A&E nurse.



2 London Street



*‘At the centre of town Julian has cracked her egg,
her healthy yolk pink and orange on the edge of
the castle [KETT] is the sound the shell makes as
it cracks [KETT, KETT] and deep yellow spreads
through London Street towards tomorrow.’*

— Hannah Levene

53 London St, Norwich NR2 1HL

Your journey continues over the footbridge at Grapes Hill and down into the bustle of the city. Continue past the Market and Jarrold and stop at the crest of London Street by the old National Westminster Bank. This was the first pedestrianised shopping precinct in the country and is now home to The Book Hive, one of Norwich’s finest independent bookshops. Why not step inside for a browse while you’re there?

‘London Street’ is written and performed by poet and novelist Hannah Levene.



More highlights from City of Literature programme...

Saturday 28 May 2022
All the Lovers in the Night
Mieko Kawakami

Internationally bestselling cult author Mieko Kawakami returns to Norwich to discuss her pulsing, poetic and shocking third novel, *All the Lovers in the Night*. Mieko is one of an exciting new generation of Japanese authors.

Adnams Spiegeltent, Festival Gardens, Chapelfield

£10 [U18/YoungNNF £7.50]

10-11am

Saturday 28 May 2022
Ancestral Ties
Melissa Fu & Ayanna Lloyd Banwo

Ancestry, heritage, grief and new beginnings are explored in two brilliant debut books by UEA alumni. Discover powerful, personal stories which span continents and generations.

National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

£8 [U18/YoungNNF £7.50]

4-5pm

Sunday 29 May 2022
City of Literature Publishing Fair

Drop in and explore the vibrant independent publishing culture of our region. Meet the publishers, browse and purchase their work, and take part in a series of lightning talks throughout the day.

National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

Free: No booking required

10am-4pm

Booking

Online
nnfestival.org.uk

Phone
01603 531800

Box office
Norwich Guildhall, Gaol Hill
Norwich, NR2 1JS

Design & Illustration: www.ofgoodstock.co.uk

3 St Martin at Palace Plain



*‘upon (or somewhere near) this place
fell many others // Rebel, brave //
by noble hand (or sword, or glaive),
no records show their name or face.’*

— Andy Bennett

St Martin At Palace Plain, Norwich NR3 1RW

Take a leisurely meander down the cobbled streets of Elm Hill (or use the accessible route via Queen St) and turn left to enjoy the picture-perfect Quayside by Fye Bridge. Loop back round to Palace St and you’ll find the next stop on the green opposite St Martin at Palace Church and the Wig & Pen pub. Behind you stands the magnificent Romanesque Cathedral. This was the site of a pitched battle between the King’s forces and Robert Kett’s men on 1 August 1549.

‘the rebel stone’ is written and performed by poet and performer Andy Bennett.



4 Tombland



*‘We come & go about our days;
we pass through them as flicking through a book:
each brick a word, street lane a chapter, reading –
without knowing – the remains of centuries,
finding nothing empty about this place.’*

— Victoria Adukwei Bulley

Queen St, Norwich NR1 4DR

Take the back route into Cathedral Close via Hook’s Walk and pass through Ethelbert Gate into Tombland, the very heart of Norwich. Tombland means ‘open ground’ or ‘empty space’ and this was the centre of commercial activity for the city until the Norman invasion in England in 1066. They tore down the palace of the Earl of East Anglia and St Michael’s church and built Norwich’s Anglican Cathedral. Stay for a moment by the Obelisk Drinking Fountain.

‘On Tombland, or Empty Space’ is written and performed by poet, writer and artist Victoria Adukwei Bulley.



5 St Julian’s Church



*‘Norwich is yours in her dark and her lighter
portals,
Treasure her deep in your souls,
Love her winding ways’*

— Jessica Streeting

St Julian’s Alley, Rouen Rd, Norwich NR1 1QT

Finally, take a left onto King St — one of the longest and oldest thoroughfares in the city. Cut through the churchyard at St Peter Parmentergate and take the longer route downhill on Rouen Road until you reach your destination, St Julian’s Church. This Grade I-listed parish church is famous for being the site of seclusion for Lady Julian of Norwich (1342-c.1416), the first woman to write a book in the English language.

‘Fine city’ is written and performed by Jessica Streeting, a writer and Nurse Consultant in Public Health.



National Centre
for Writing

Norfolk & Norwich
FESTIVAL

WANDERING
WORDS

A WALKING TOUR OF NORWICH
UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE

Norwich, England’s first
UNESCO City of Literature

Norwich has been a literary city for over 900 years: a place of ideas where the power of words has changed lives, promoted parliamentary democracy, fomented revolution, fought for the abolition of slavery and transformed literature. Today, it remains a popular destination for poets, novelists, biographers, playwrights, translators, literary critics, historians, environmentalists and philosophers: a place for writers as agents of change.

In 2012, National Centre for Writing led the successful bid for Norwich to become England’s first UNESCO City of Literature, joining a prestigious network of cities worldwide.

Discover the rich literary history of Norwich, the reasons why it is still popular with writers and readers today, and take part in more literary walks, by visiting the Norwich UNESCO website.

[nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/
unesco-city-of-literature](https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/unesco-city-of-literature)

Norwich
UNESCO City of Literature