

### Contact us

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by telephone or email.

### Find us

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115-123 King St, Norwich NR1 1QE

Registered Charity in UK 1110725

**N** National Centre  
for Writing

  
DRAGON HALL

The National Centre for Writing is supported by:



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**NORWICH  
City Council**



University of East Anglia

  
UNESCO City of Literature



National Centre  
for Writing

COVER PHOTO: SARAH PERRY © SOPHIE DAVIDSON

March  
— May 2024



Hello, and thank you for picking up this copy of our seasonal brochure. Regardless of when you find yourself reading this, the NCW team sends you best wishes for the year ahead. We hope that the events and opportunities at our Literature House and online will galvanise and inspire, offer connection and reflection, bring inspiration and hope for 2024.

We've got two spectacular book launches planned for this season, starting with Naomi Alderman, internationally bestselling author of *The Power*, who returns to Norwich with her new book *The Future*. Then Sarah Perry, author of *The Essex Serpent*, will present *Enlightenment*, an unforgettable story of love, faith and science, at a very special evening in Norwich Cathedral.

We're also delighted to introduce another talented cohort of emerging translators to the world through the Emerging Translator Showcase 2024. Plus, the Poetry Translation Centre is stopping off at Dragon Hall to host a weekend of poetry events and workshops on the theme of exile and arrival.

We open our doors ever wider in 2024: you can visit our home, the beautiful Dragon Hall, on Sundays, where we'll be hosting a range of self-led tours and family friendly story-making activities — including a dragon egg Easter trail!

We look ahead to the coming months with great excitement and anticipation, and look forward to you joining us.

#### Best wishes

*Peggy Hughes*

**Peggy Hughes**  
CEO, National Centre for Writing

Dragon Hall activities  
for young people

## What's on

### Dragon Hall Social

**WED 6 MARCH, WED 10 APRIL, WED 8 MAY, DOORS 5.30PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, FREE**

Open to anyone who makes, reads, and works with words, our monthly drop-in event is an opportunity to grab a drink from the bar, meet people, cook up plans and compare notes, to talk books, and to hear what's happening in Norwich.

### Emerging Translators Showcase 2024

**THU 28 MARCH, 4PM BST, ONLINE, FREE**

Meet the future stars of literary translation at a special event showcasing another successful year of the Emerging Translator Mentorships programme. Fresh from six months of mentoring, they present newly translated works into English.



PHOTO: © ROB IRISH

Emerging Translator Alex Mephram

PHOTO: © ANNABEL MOELLER



Naomi Alderman

### Naomi Alderman: The Future

**TUE 5 MARCH, 6.30PM, UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, £10 (£8 CONC / £5 STUDENT)**

The internationally bestselling author of *The Power* returns to UEA for a conversation with Julianne Pachico about her latest novel, *The Future* – a white-knuckle tour-de-force that sees lone individuals taking on tech giants, highlighting how power corrupts the few who have it and what it means to stand up to them.

The event will include an audience Q&A and will be followed by a book signing in the foyer. Books will be available to buy, courtesy of Waterstones.

**'Gripping ... about to sweep the charts'**  
— Margaret Atwood

In partnership with:







Tse Hao Guang



Janani Ambikapathy

## Meet the World: Singapore Season

Celebrating our ongoing connections with international writers and translators by sharing their writing and ideas with new readers.

### Poetry in a Digital Age

**TUE 12 MARCH, 7PM BST, ONLINE, FREE**

Contemporary methods of communication at the hands of digitalisation have created a wealth of evolving spaces for poetic inspiration. Tse Hao Guang and Sam Riviere explore the creative responsibilities within found poetry, the impact of digitalisation, and the unique relationship between a poet and their work.

*The Singaporean Season is generously supported by the National Arts Council of Singapore*



### Translating Nature and Sacrifice

**TUE 19 MARCH, 7PM BST, ONLINE, FREE**

Join translators Sim Wai-chew, Daniel Eltringham and Nicky Harman as they explore the short stories and poetry of two writers heavily involved in guerrilla warfare: Hai Fan and Mario Payeras.

### Making the Unfamiliar Familiar

**TUE 26 MARCH, 7PM BST, ONLINE, FREE**

Janani Ambikapathy and Nur-El-Hudaa Jaffar, translating from Tamil and Malay respectively, join Shash Trevett for an insightful discussion about the challenges of translating culture and antiquity that they have encountered.

### Sarah Perry: Enlightenment

**TUE 30 APRIL, 7.30PM, NORWICH CATHEDRAL, £12 (£10 CONC)**

Sarah Perry, the internationally bestselling author of *Melmoth* and *The Essex Serpent*, launches her highly anticipated new novel with us in the beautiful surroundings of Norwich Cathedral.

*Enlightenment* is a story of love and astronomy told over the course of 20 years through the lives of two improbable best friends. Heralded as 'a complete masterwork' by Sarah Hall and 'a beautiful, memorable novel' by

*In partnership with Norwich Cathedral*



the *Observer*, it is a thrillingly ambitious novel of friendship, faith, and unrequited love.

The event will include an audience Q&A and will be followed by a

book signing. Books will be available to buy on the evening, courtesy of The Book Hive.

*'Enlightenment is not only a book that seems to redeem its world, but to redeem its readers. It is a gift' — Seán Hewitt, author of All Down Darkness Wide*



Sarah Perry



# EXILE/ARRIVAL: A weekend of poetry in translation

We are delighted to welcome the Poetry Translation Centre to Dragon Hall as part of its UK-wide tour to celebrate 20 years of giving the best contemporary poems from Africa, Asia and Latin America a new life in the English language.

**Living in Language: World Poetry Day with Yang Lian & Mohan Rana**  
**THU 21 MARCH, 7PM, PAY WHAT YOU WISH**  
 Celebrate World Poetry Day with the launch of *Living in Language*, a groundbreaking anthology of lyric essays, fragments, letters and new poems from 21 poets from around the world.

**Voices in Exile: An Evening with Maura Dooley, Azita Ghahreman & Elhum Shakerifar**  
**FRI 22 MARCH, 6.30PM, PAY WHAT YOU WISH**  
 A bilingual evening of poetry with Azita



PHOTO: © FARHAD

Azita Ghahreman

Ghahreman, one of Iran's leading poets, and her translators Elhum Shakerifar and Maura Dooley. Hosted by George Szirtes.

**Workshop: Farsi Poetry Translation with Elhum Shakerifar**  
**SAT 23 MARCH, 10AM-12.30PM, £16 (£12 CONC)**

Using a rough guide translation provided by Elhum Shakerifar, you will work together to translate a Farsi poem into English. No prior knowledge of Farsi is needed, just a passion for writing, language and culture!

**Polylingual Poetry Open Mic**  
**SAT 23 MARCH, 7PM, PAY WHAT YOU WISH**  
 The world needs to hear your voice! Join us for a poetry open mic night with a polylingual flavour. We are looking for poems written in all languages from Arabic to Zapotec, and every other language spoken in Norfolk.

*In partnership with the Poetry Translation Centre, supported by Arts Council England*

poetry  
translation  
centre

## Get involved

**Personal Histories: a Creative Community Project**

**STARTS WED 28 FEBRUARY FOR FIVE WEEKS, 10-11.30AM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, FREE (BOOKING REQUIRED)**

Tell your story through creative writing, drawing, print-making and collage. Take inspiration from the rich history of our magnificent medieval building and work towards contributing to a publication which will be shared with future visitors to Dragon Hall. For participants aged 60+ years.

**A Life Written**

**STARTS TUE 16 APRIL FOR TEN WEEKS, 10AM-12PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £30 (BURSARIES AVAILABLE)**

Are you age 70+ and would like to write your life story? Join us for ten weekly

sessions where you will choose how to write your life story, learn creative writing skills, reflect on how writing gives you a new perspective, and discover what you would like to share with others.

*In partnership with Anglia Ruskin University*

**Stitch Your Stories**

**STARTS MON 29 APRIL FOR FOUR WEEKS, 2-3.30PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, FREE (BOOKING REQUIRED)**

Join the Cloth of Kindness team for a series of four gentle talking and sharing workshops. Stitch thoughts and memories onto garments or domestic fabrics, and display your finished work on our washing line. For Norwich residents aged 60+ years.



PHOTO: © PRIVACHOK CANVA

Stitch Your Story



# Become a City of Literature Volunteer!

National Centre for Writing and Norwich UNESCO City of Literature invites local residents, students and visitors to join our team of enthusiastic volunteers.



PHOTO: © LUKE WITCOMB

Volunteer

We are currently seeking volunteers to support us with Daytime Front of House duties, Event Stewarding & Box Office Sales, and Heritage & Creative Activities.

Your involvement will make a huge difference to the work we do, and to the quality of welcome and service that we provide to our visitors, artists, neighbours, and communities.

**Want to join us? Visit [nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/volunteer](http://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/volunteer) and fill out our short expression of interest form.**

We have several exciting volunteer opportunities available. Your time and enthusiasm will be a gift to all who live in and visit Norwich. Together we will:

- Introduce **new and improved visiting hours** at Dragon Hall, and welcome visitors into our **shop and box office** in the Dragon Hall entrance
- Reimagine the **heritage and stories** of Dragon Hall, King St and beyond
- Run **informal and structured creative writing, storytelling, and craft workshops** for all ages
- Provide **friendly and accessible talks, performances and tours**
- Represent NCW at **creative and community fairs and events** across the city.

## Volunteer perks

- Free NCW t-shirt and tote bag to identify you as part of our team
- 20% discount at the NCW shop
- Free tickets to NCW events
- Travel costs reimbursed (limitations apply)

**You'll also make new friends, gain skills and experience to boost your CV, and have an opportunity to give back to Norwich's community.**



Dragon Hall

### Visit us

National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall, 115-123 King St, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 1QE.

### Guided Heritage Tours

Take a guided tour of Dragon Hall and learn more about its architectural and social history from an experienced volunteer guide. Please book in advance as spaces are limited. **SUGGESTED DONATION £5.**

Mon 18 March, Mon 15 April and Mon 20 May, 2pm

**To find out more, visit [nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/dragon-hall](http://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/dragon-hall).**

*Stepping into Dragon Hall is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Norwich Freeman's Charity*



The Great Hall is 26 metres long and constructed with the oak of some 1,000 trees

**LOOK UP!  
LOOK AT!**

Step into one of Norwich's most significant medieval buildings and discover the fascinating stories of the people who have lived and worked here for hundreds of years.

Dragon Hall is open from **10am to 3pm on Sunday** each week. Our public entrance is on King St, opposite the The Butterfly Café.

Learn about the history of the site through self-led tours and take part in family activities. You can also join us for special events in February half term and the Easter break (see pages 10-11)!





TOASTIES Family Show

## Young people and families

### February half-term activities

#### Step into Dragon Hall's Story – Family Activity Day

**TUE 20 FEBRUARY, 10AM–1PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, FREE, DROP IN**

Drop into Dragon Hall and discover 600 years of fascinating stories. Explore the site, hear tales of medieval life, and try your hand at something creative. There's even a dragon to spot! Suitable for all ages.

#### Witch Marks & Dragon Scales

**THU 22 FEBRUARY, 10AM–12PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, PAY WHAT YOU WISH**

Let your imagination soar! Avani Shah leads a writing workshop where you will hear tales of witches, dragons and the past inhabitants of our 15th-century building, then use these stories as inspiration for your own creative writing. Suitable for ages 9–11 years.

#### TOASTIES Family Poetry Show

**THU 22 FEBRUARY, 2PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, PAY WHAT YOU WISH**

We're delighted to welcome TOASTIES back to Dragon Hall for another fun, interactive poetry experience where rules are broken and new ideas are brought into being! Featuring poet and writer Kate Wakeling. Suitable for families with children aged 5+ years.



### Easter holiday activities

#### Dragon Egg Easter Trail

**MON 1–WED 3 APRIL & SUN 7–TUE 9 APRIL, 10AM–3PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, FREE, DROP IN**

Our dragon has been busy hiding eggs around Dragon Hall, can you help us find them? You can also create your own decorated dragon egg to take home or to leave on our Easter tree! Suitable for families with children up to 8 years.

#### This is Our Home: Creative Play in Dragon Hall for Under 5s

**TUE 2 APRIL, 10AM–11AM & 11.15AM–12.15PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, FREE**

Learn and play in a sensory environment with artist Rose Feather. Rose will use storytelling, songs and crafts to tell some of the stories of the people that once lived in Dragon Hall. Spaces are limited, please book your place in advance.



See Make and Do

#### The Magic of Storytelling

**WED 3 APRIL, 10AM–12PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, PAY WHAT YOU WISH**

Bring a story to life in this interactive session! Together we'll play games, and plot and develop believable characters, so make sure you arrive armed with a good pen and your imagination! Suitable for ages 9–12 years.

#### Write Powerful Poems

**WED 3 APRIL, 1–3PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, PAY WHAT YOU WISH**

What do we write poems about, and why do we write them? Join us for an interactive session that will equip you with everything you need to get started with writing poetry. Suitable for ages 9–12 years.

#### Step into Dragon Hall's Story – Family Activity Day

**TUE 9 APRIL, 1PM–3PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, FREE, DROP IN**

Drop into Dragon Hall and discover 600 years of fascinating stories. Pick up a map and activity pack, explore the site, and let your creativity flow. There's even a dragon to spot! Suitable for all ages.



## Lit From The Inside



Calling curious creatives! Want to go behind the scenes of working in an arts organisation?

Our Lit from the Inside programme for 14-17 year olds

based in Norfolk is a great way of sharing ideas, trying new things, making friends and encouraging positive social change. Meet authors, take part in arts events and be part of the Young Norfolk Writing Prize judging team!

Applications open on Mon 1 April and close on Fri 31 May.

Visit [nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/lit-inside](http://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/lit-inside).

Supported by Angu's Educational Foundation

## Young Norfolk Writing Prize 2024

Are you aged 10-18 and love writing? Fancy sharing your best creative work and winning some fantastic prizes?

The Young Norfolk Writing Prize 2024, the region's largest annual creative writing competition for young people, is now open for entries! Whether you're a poet, songwriter, graphic novelist or podcaster, we want to hear from you.

Entries close at 5pm, Mon 29 April.

Visit [nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/ynwp](http://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/ynwp).



# City Of Literature Weekend 2024

Friday 24 — Sunday 26 May

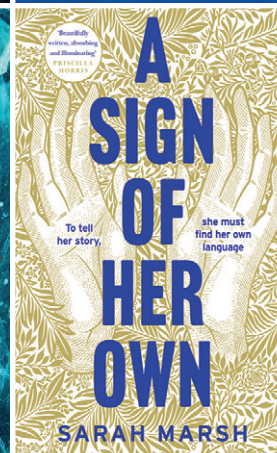
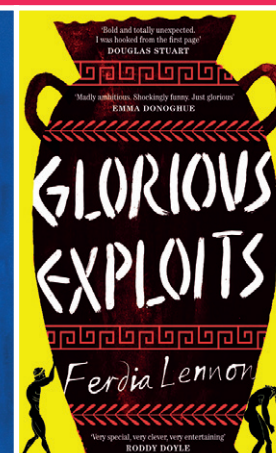
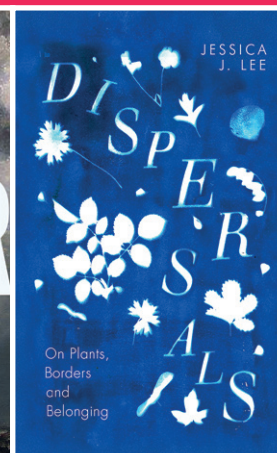


PHOTO © THOM LAW / PEN ILLUSTRATION © HAYLEY WELLS







Val McDermid

This year's City of Literature weekend invites you to consider: whose voices are often going unheard, and how can we make sure that we're listening? Join us for events, creative workshops and open spaces that explore important questions of communication and representation.

### Picture Book Adventures with Kate Read

**FRI 24 MAY, 10.30AM, ADNAMS SPIEGELTENT, CHAPELFIELD GARDENS, £5 PER CHILD**

Kate Read invites you to join her on a colourful, interactive journey through the natural world! Featuring counting, singing and crafts. Suitable for children up to seven years old.

*In partnership with Bookbugs & Dragon Tales*

### Daring to Dream: Ferdia Lennon & Clare Pollard

**FRI 24 MAY, 3PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £10 (£9 CONC)**

Ferdia Lennon and Clare Pollard discuss how storytelling and folklore helps us to survive during times of darkness and conflict.

### The Distance Between Us: Carys Davies & Jon McGregor

**FRI 24 MAY, 6PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £10 (£9 CONC)**

Carys Davies and Jon McGregor reflect on the human impulse to connect and tell our stories – even when words fail us.

### Build a Community Picture Book

**SAT 25 & SUN 26 MAY, 10AM–11AM & 1–2PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, FREE (BOOK IN ADVANCE)**

Draw, cut and stick a page for our community book inspired by Dragon Hall and the people who have lived and worked here over hundreds of years. Suitable for ages 5–11 years.

### Poems as Friends with Roy McFarlane & Hannah Jane Walker

**SAT 25 MAY, 10AM, ADNAMS SPIEGELTENT, CHAPELFIELD GARDENS, £10 (£9 CONC)**

Sit back, relax and be taken on a journey in the company of poems by Dylan Thomas, Carol Ann Duffy, Katherine Mansfield, and many more.

*In partnership with The Poetry Exchange*



Michael Donkor

### Harriet Martineau Lecture: Val McDermid

**SAT 25 MAY, 12.30PM, ADNAMS SPIEGELTENT, CHAPELFIELD GARDENS, £12 (£10.80 CONC)**

This year's Harriet Martineau Lecture will be delivered by one of the UK's most accomplished and respected novelists, Val McDermid.

*Supported by The Martineau Society*

### Page Against the Machine

**SAT 25 MAY, 2PM, THE PLANTATION GARDEN, £2 DONATION ON ENTRY**

Pick a book, bring a cool drink and turn off your phone for a well-deserved detox read. Simultaneous events will be taking place in UNESCO Cities of Literature across the world.

*In partnership with The Book Hive*

### A Sign of Her Own: Sarah Marsh

**SAT 25 MAY, 3PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £10 (£9 CONC)**

Discover a mesmerising tale of historical fiction that explores the legacy of the telephone through the life of a young deaf

woman. This event will be BSL interpreted.

### Grow Where They Fall: Michael Donkor & Santanu Bhattacharya

**SAT 25 MAY, 5.30PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £10 (£9 CONC)**

Two intelligent and compassionate novelists come together to discuss the themes of past lives and blossoming identities in their fiction.

### Burnt TOAST — Late Night Open Mic Poetry

**SAT 25 MAY, 8PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £10 (£9 CONC)**

Grab a slot, show off your best work, and help us to celebrate East Anglia as a hotbed of creative talent. Includes a headline set from Jasmine Gardosi.

### Uprooted: Marchelle Farrell & Jessica J. Lee

**SUN 26 MAY, 10.30AM, ADNAMS SPIEGELTENT, CHAPELFIELD GARDENS, £10 (£9 CONC)**

Marchelle Farrell and Jessica J. Lee host a hopeful and healing discussion on finding a sense of home through plants and reconnecting to the land.

### City of Literature Publishing Fair

**SUN 26 MAY, 10AM–4PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, FREE, DROP IN**

From hardbacks to zines and everything in-between — discover the vibrant publishing culture of the East of England at our popular biannual publishing fair! Meet the publishers, browse and purchase their work, and take part in a series of lightning talks throughout the day.



# LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS

[nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/academy](https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/academy)

## ACADEMY

at National Centre for Writing

Workshop at Dragon Hall

PHOTO: © LUKE WITCOMB

## Workshops at the City of Literature Weekend 2024

Practical help for writers of all genres and career stages. Through informal group discussion and writing exercises, our expert tutors will share their skills and insight on various areas of writing.

### **Giving Place a Voice: Poetry Workshop with Elizabeth Lewis Williams**

**FRI 24 MAY, 11AM-1PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £35 (£25 CONC)**  
Consider the spirit of place and how the landscapes and settlements deeply etched in our minds can be given a voice to speak.



Marchelle Farrell

PHOTO: © RICHARD GRASSIE

### **Writing Conflict in Fiction with Michael Donkor**

**SAT 25 MAY, 10AM-12PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £35 (£25 CONC)**  
Bring your characters to life and propel your story forward by learning how to create conflict in your fiction writing.

### **Book Binding with Judith Ellis**

**SATURDAY 25 MAY, 3-4.30PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £15**  
Whether you're a zine maker, poet or dabble in creative nonfiction, anyone can learn how to turn their work into a simple but beautiful binding.

### **Nature Writing: Inner Landscapes with Marchelle Farrell**

**SUNDAY 26 MAY, 2-4PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £35 (£25 CONC)**  
How can everyday landscapes be used to reshape and reimagine our stories? A relaxed creative writing session led by therapist, writer and gardener Marchelle Farrell.

### **Book Cover Design with Pam Smy**

**SUN 26 MAY, 11AM-12.30PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £15**  
Try your hand at designing a book cover at this practical workshop led by illustrator and lecturer, Pam Smy.



## Online tutored courses

Join an international writing community and get one-to-one feedback on your work with a flexible creative writing course.

Our practical and carefully supported online courses are suitable for writers at all stages, whether you're just starting out or honing your craft. They include exercises, interactive Zoom sessions, hand-picked resources and fortnightly tutor feedback on your writing.

*In partnership with:*



### Beginner courses (12 weeks), begin Tuesday 7 May

- How to Write Fiction
- Kickstart Your Poetry
- Creative Non-Fiction: An Introduction
- Scriptwriting: An Introduction

### Intermediate courses (18 weeks), begin Monday 20 May

- Writing Crime Fiction: The Next Chapter
- Developing Your Historical Fiction



PHOTO: © BROOKE CAGLE

Online tutored courses

### Coming Summer 2024

New for 2024! Looking for a short-term writing course that will introduce you to new reading materials, help you to build a writing routine, and offers the opportunity to receive personalised feedback on a sample of your work?

Sign up for an eight-week online course in **Novel Writing**, **Life Writing** or **Nature Writing** this summer with NCW Academy.

- A mixture of live Zoom classes and online forum discussion with your tutor and peers
- Receive reading materials and writing exercises focused on craft
- Submit one short assignment and one longer assignment to your tutor for personal feedback
- Create a plan for where to take your writing next



Lynne Bryan

## Workshops

Achieve your writing goals and deepen your understanding of the craft with a half-day or full-day writing workshop.

### Exploring New Ways Into Your Family History with Yin F Lim

**SAT 2 MARCH, 10AM–12.30PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £45 (£35 CONC)**

Family history is fascinating, but how do you transform what you discover into a narrative? Learn to engage creatively with your past by using oral and physical archival material as springboards for your writing.

### Journeys Through Time with Lynne Bryan

**SAT 16 MARCH, 10AM–12.30PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £45 (£35 CONC)**

Play with time to manipulate interest, suspense, tension, and structure in your short stories and novels in this workshop led by award-winning novelist, fiction writer and memoirist Lynne Bryan.

### Industry Insights for Novelists

**SAT 20 APRIL, 10AM–4PM, ONLINE, £22 (£18 CONC)**

Join us for a day of inspirational talks and networking for novelists at the beginning of their career. Enrich your understanding of agents, publishing and life as a writer through sessions led by authors and industry professionals.

### Transform Your Writing Through Translation with Kotryna Garanasvili

**SAT 27 APRIL, 10AM–12.30PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £45 (£35 CONC)**

Take a new approach to writing and bring fresh eyes to your work, making each word count. No prior translation experience needed.



## One-to-one mentoring

Looking for advice? Need feedback on your writing? Our expert mentors are uniquely placed to help writers of all levels, from the finer details of a specific project to the bigger picture of your life as a writer. Working one-to-one, each session is focused on how best to help you, wherever you are in your writing journey.



Megan Bradbury

**The Full Story: 12-month mentoring package for prose writers**  
**£3,000 (PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE)**  
 Guided by Megan Bradbury, you will grow a long-form prose project from its conception to its completion. Megan's teaching is process-led and uniquely tailored to each writer. You will receive feedback on up to 60,000 words of writing.

### Aspire: mentoring package (three session minimum)

**FROM £256.50**

Sign up for a bespoke package of support and meet regularly with your mentor to refine your manuscript, work on a funding application or implement an action plan to improve your creative practice — whatever it is that will help you to achieve your writing goals.

Book three or more sessions in one transaction with the same mentor and receive a 10% discount on your total purchase.

### Single or introductory mentoring session

**£95 FOR A ONE-HOUR SESSION**

Try mentoring for the first time and get a taster of what the relationship can offer. Also useful if you have a particular challenge or area of advice you would like to address.



Hannah Vincent

**MANY OF OUR COURSES ARE FREE!**

## Online, self-paced courses

These short online courses make it easy to progress even while balancing work, school or family commitments. Explore writing habits and routines, boost your confidence, tackle character and plot or experiment with a new genre.

### Craft

- How to Write Real People in Memoir
- How to Write True Crime
- How to Create Suspense in Fiction
- First Steps in Short Form Poetry
- New Ways with Short Form Poetry
- How to Write Unreliable Narrators
- How to Write Young Adult Fiction
- Writing Characters for Middle-Grade Fiction
- Writing Science Fiction

### Confidence & productivity

- How to Write More and Stay Happy
- How to be a Confident Poet
- Supercharge Your Writing

### Professional insights

- Know Your Publishing Options

**Many of our courses are free!**  
**Paid-for courses begin at £75.**

### How to Make Money From Your Writing

Sam Ruddock leads you through the tricky world of funding and finance. Gain insight into the publishing industry, ways you can make money as a writer, and how to secure grants to support your work.

**NEW!**





PHOTO: © NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Book benches

## Explore Norwich UNESCO City of Literature, a city of stories

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, Norwich remains a key destination for poets, novelists, biographers, playwrights, translators, literary critics, historians, environmentalists and philosophers. A place for writers as agents of change.

There's plenty to explore across our fine city – where will you go next?

### TOAST Poetry @ Bread Source, The Refectory

An evening of spoken word and live performance, TOAST is Norfolk's biggest regular poetry night. You will laugh, cry and find something you like (even if you don't think you like poetry). Upcoming performers include Mimi Khalvati, John Osborne and Cecilia Knapp.

Visit [toastpoetry.com](http://toastpoetry.com)

*Norwich*

UNESCO City of Literature

PHOTO: © ROBIN MAIR



### True Stories Live @ Norwich Arts Centre

True Stories Live is a lively, moving and unpredictable event where people tell true stories about their lives in front of a warm, supportive audience. There is no audition process or strict set of criteria – you just have to have a story to tell.

Visit [truestorieslive.co.uk](http://truestorieslive.co.uk)

### UEA Live

UEA Live, a literary festival based at the University of East Anglia, has been welcoming the world's finest writers and thinkers to Norwich since 1991. Recent speakers include Hanya Yanagihara, Kamila Shamsie, Shon Faye and Courttina Newland.

Visit [uealive.com](http://uealive.com)

### Bookshops across the city

From intimate book launches at The Book Hive to weekly toddler craft and story clubs at Bookbugs & Dragon Tales, in any given month you will find fantastic author events and reading activities taking place in bookshops across the city.

### Norwich Book Benches

Sit, meet, read and enjoy the sights and sounds of Norwich from nine beautifully designed book benches scattered across the city centre. Many of the book benches have been inscribed with authors or stories that have a connection to the city, the county or region, either living, working or the book is based here.

Made possible by the EXPERIENCE Project

Visit [visitnorwich.co.uk/book-benches](http://visitnorwich.co.uk/book-benches)

### Wandering Words

Experience Norwich through fresh eyes and make discoveries about its past, present and future by embarking on a literary walking trail of the city.

Scan the QR code and download a map to start your audio adventure. Follow the trail to each marked location and listen to a poem written by a writer with ties to Norwich, as well as sounds of the people and settings that inspired each of them to put pen to paper.

Featuring work by Victoria Adukwei Bulley, Andy Bennett, Piers Harrison-Reid, Hannah Levene and Jessica Streeting, plus two new commissions for 2024 by Martin Figura and Cat Woodward.



DOWNLOAD THE MAP

A National Centre for Writing and Norfolk & Norwich Festival presentation. Sound production by Access Creative College



# BE A PART OF THE NEXT CHAPTER

Support NCW to use the transformative power of stories to empower individuals and communities. We are rooted in Norwich, with regional, national and international significance as a hub for creative writing.

## Nurturing children, young people and communities

We inspire writers and storytellers of the future through drop-in sessions, workshops and outreach in schools.

**2,730**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED

**51**

SCHOOLS REACHED IN EAST ANGLIA

## Bringing communities together

Learning programmes empower all ages to be creative with words in the community, at Dragon Hall and online.

**7,282**

ADULTS TOOK PART IN CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

**109**

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES DELIVERED

## Inspiring writers and translators

Residencies, mentoring, commissions and more for creative writers and translators, with an emphasis on underrepresented voices and stories.

**299+**

ARTISTS AND WRITERS

**954+**

ARTIST EMPLOYMENT DAYS

2022/23 STATISTICS

## Support Donate Join Us

Our work is only possible thanks to your support and generosity. To be part of our next chapter, with more events and greater access to Dragon Hall than ever before, you can:

### Donate

Every donation directly supports writers, translators & communities to experience the art and joy of creating with words.

### Join

NCW Society or Supporters' Circle memberships are great ways to meet fellow creatives and lovers of stories, whilst enjoying fantastic benefits bringing you closer to our work: [nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/memberships](https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/memberships).

### Advertise

Promote your business to our engaged regional audience online and in print. Contact **development** @[nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk](mailto:nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk).

**'It has boosted my confidence in speaking out as well as writing. I feel part of a new community — less alone' — Participant**





# Writer and translator opportunities

## Residencies at Dragon Hall

NCW hosts a year-round residency programme for UK and international writers and translators, a mix of in-person residencies in the Dragon Hall cottage and virtual residencies. We work with a wide range of partners and funders to support our residencies and exchanges.

Our resident in April will be multilingual teacher, writer and poet Sofie Verraest as part of an exchange programme with Passa Porta international house of literature in Brussels.



PHOTO: © HANNAH HUTCHINS

## UNESCO City of Literature residencies

Writers and literary translators living in Norwich are regularly invited to apply for residency opportunities taking place in other UNESCO Cities of Literature across the world. We promote upcoming international residencies on our website, alongside open calls for in-person and virtual residencies at NCW.

**For full details and the latest residency opportunities, visit [nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/residencies](https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/residencies)**

## International Literary Translation and Creative Writing Summer School 2024

The renowned International Literary Translation and Creative Writing Summer School brings together writers and translators, from around the world, for a unique and intensive one-week programme of hands-on literary translation and creative writing practice. The programme also includes panel discussions and short talks on industry topics. The 2024 BCLT Summer School will take place online between Mon 22 – Fri 26 July.

Applications close on Sunday 31 March.

Visit [bclt.org.uk](https://bclt.org.uk)



DRAGON HALL

# Marry. Celebrate. Meet.

The 15th-century Dragon Hall is a magnificent timbered trading hall and courtyard garden in the heart of Norwich. Blending historic detail with sleek contemporary touches, it's the perfect creative canvas for weddings, parties and important evens that seek to do things a little differently.

Find out more [nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/hire](https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/hire)

Home to the

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for Writing