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BRADFORD
LITERATURE
FESTIVAL

25TH JUNE - 4TH JULY 2021

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Bradford Literature Festival 2021

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Bradford Literature Festival 2022
24TH JUNE - 3RD JULY



Bradford Literature Festival 2021

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

I am delighted, and thankful, to once again be able to welcome you to Bradford Literature Festival (BLF), now in its seventh year. This year's festival will have a mix of live and on-line events featuring over 200 incredible speakers in more than 100 events.

This has been a difficult and challenging year for the entire country and for our city of Bradford in particular, so to be able to bring a live festival back to the city is a great joy. The mission of the festival has always been to create a space where people can come together to share wisdom, seek mutual understanding, and explore new ideas. This mission feels increasingly important this year, as we start to venture into the world again. The festival this year is far smaller than any of our previous iterations; we are using a small number of venues whose capacity allows audiences to be socially distanced and plenty of time has been left between events to ensure thorough disinfection of the spaces. All audience members will need to wear face masks, unless medically exempt, and we thank you for your understanding on this matter.

This year's festival brings together some of the most inspirational and enquiring minds from across the worlds of literature, poetry, politics and history. Our guests include Ellery Hanley, Caitlin Moran, Jacqueline Wilson, Tez Ilyas, Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad, Anita Rani, Alison Weir and Linton Kwesi Johnson. We return with ever-popular annual flagship events, including 'Poetry with a Punch' and Sufiana Kalaam, while dialogue, debate, and reflection will form the heart of panel discussions covering topics ranging from Black Lives Matter to the nature of grief, exploding myths of nutritional science to imagining a matriarchal global society.

Our digital programme last year, including our Education events, reached over 30,000 people locally, national and internationally. We were delighted to welcome our audiences from far and wide and hope everyone enjoyed the brilliant range of artists from around the world who took part in the programme.

The 2021 digital programme once again features inspirational names from the world of books, politics and poetry and will be available online for free. Tune in to hear Michael Rosen talk about poetry and his personal experience of Covid-19; join Minnesota's Attorney General, Keith Ellison, who led the team that found Derek Chauvin guilty a year on from the killing of George Floyd, discussing his battle against racism in the US and Jacqueline Wilson will introduce her new book, *The Runaway Girls*, and delve into her personal library to select the books that changed her life.

BLF has always operated an Ethical Ticketing Policy, honouring the fundamental importance of the

arts, literacy, and education in enabling our most disadvantaged families and young people to fulfill their potential and achieve the future they deserve.

We have done this because as a festival we have always placed great importance on ensuring literature and cultural activity is available to all families and children, and in this new Covid-touched world we recognise that not everyone has the luxury of good internet connectivity and unlimited data downloads that are needed to access digital festival events.

I am delighted therefore to announce that alongside our (free) digital events, we are continuing our Ethical Ticketing policy for live programming. And excitingly, in place of the annual Family Fun Days that normally take place in City Park we will this year bring you Literature Unlocked, a programme of Family Fun Days taking place in Bowling Park, Peel Park, Cliffe Castle Park and Lister Park with support from Arts Council England, The National Lottery and the Pears Foundation, and from community and cultural partners across the district.

The work that we do here at BLF is only ever possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and funders; this year that is truer than ever and we are so grateful to all those who fund us, who have matched their financial support with great understanding and empathy, under the most difficult circumstances.

I would like to thank Arts Council England and the DCMS for funding provided under the Cultural Recovery Fund programme; the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Pears Foundation, Bradford Council, and the University of Bradford, for their continued faith and support. I would like to welcome Baillie Gifford and the Backstage Trust as new sponsors and funders of the Festival. I would also like to thank the Bradford Opportunity Area for their continued support of the Education Programme. We are also grateful to our legal partner LCF Law, our hotel partner Midland Hotel, and our book partner Waterstones for the various ways they demonstrate their unflinching support

And to you, our audiences and participants. Those new to us and those who are old friends; to welcome you back to our festival, online and in person is a great honour, and we thank you for the trust, the support and the belief that this demonstrates. We invite you to come with us to "discover a different story". We dedicate this festival to all of you.

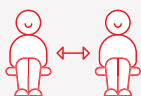
Syima Aslam
Festival Director



HOW WE'VE MADE BLF 2021 COVID-SECURE

As excited as we are to return to live events, we recognise the need to make BLF as Covid-secure as possible for our visitors, speakers and staff.

We've worked closely with venues and the government's Covid guidance to ensure you can enjoy the festival safely – **At this year's live events you'll find:**



SOCIALLY DISTANCED SEATING

The capacity at all our partner venues has been reduced in order to provide socially distanced seating. Event queues will also be socially distanced. Please arrive in plenty of time before the event to ensure we can seat you safely.



ENHANCED CLEANING

All venues will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between events. We'll require you to check in on the NHS Test and Trace app, or we'll take your details manually in order to ensure we can notify you should any positive cases arise after the event.



MASKS

Mask-wearing will be mandatory at our indoor events, unless medically exempt. Our staff will also be wearing masks.



HAND SANITISER

Hand sanitiser will be provided at all events, and equipment will be sanitised regularly.

Each venue has its own Covid Secure policy which can be accessed on their website. We advise you to check the venue policy before your visit.

Education Events

SCHOOLS PROGRAMME



FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS, THESE WILL INCLUDE:

- Youth fiction icon **Jacqueline Wilson**
- Former children's laureate **Michael Rosen**
- Illustrator and author **Nick Sharratt**
- Horrid Henry creator **Francesca Simon**
- Former English teacher turned writer **Jeffrey Boakye**
- Children's author **Chitra Soundar** and YA author **Burhana Islam**.

FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, THESE WILL INCLUDE:

- Writer and journalist **Patrice Lawrence**
- Author **CG Moore**
- Writer and teacher **Jeffrey Boakye**
- Playwright, poet and children's writer **John Agard**

Our schools events are created with the curriculum in mind and come with downloadable, key stage appropriate, resource packs.

Once events are live, they can be streamed at any time from the BLF website for free, ensuring that you can use them whenever needed.



**Yorkshire Adabee
Forum Mushaira**

Aagrah - Midpoint

19:00 (180 mins) £20

A platform for creativity and self-expression, the Mushaira has not only been an integral part of North Indian, Pakistani and Deccan culture since the 17th century, it is also an unforgettable moment in our annual calendar.

Originating as a forum where Urdu-speaking poets can gather to showcase their work, the Yorkshire Abadee Forum Mushaira has been a popular part of Bradford Literature Festival since its inception 2014.

Join us for a magical evening to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Urdu language with some of the most talented Urdu-speaking poets of today.



A.A. Dhand: The Blood Divide

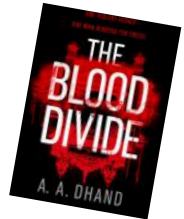
A.A. Dhand, M.W. Craven

Waterstones, The Wool Exchange

19:00 (60 mins) £7

Leading crime writer A. A. Dhand creates page-turning tales of crime, city life and the space where both interject. His latest novel, *The Blood Divide*, continues this trend, whisking readers away on a nail-biting journey from Delhi's Red Light District to India's militarized zones.

Sikh corner-shop owner Jack is in over his head. When a detective visits in the middle of the night he's tortured and left for dead - without an explanation in sight. The next day, he awakes next to a young medical student he's never seen before and together they're thrust into a thrill-a-minute race to discover why they're at the centre of a missing person case - one that appears to be controlled by a dangerous organisation.



We're delighted to welcome Dhand for an in-conversation event chaired by fellow author M.W. Craven.



An Evening of Comedy

Tez Ilyas, Janine Harouni, Thanyia Moore

St George's Hall

19:30 (120 mins) £10

After the year we've had, a heady hit of comedy sounds like the perfect way to ease into the brighter summer months - and we've got just the thing to leave you smiling. A fan favourite in our annual calendar, join us for *An Evening of Comedy* as we introduce you to some of the finest stand-up talent currently working the UK comedy circuit.

Housed in St George's Hall and compered by Thanyia Moore, a trio of unmissable acts will be on hand to tickle your funny bones, including New Yorker Janine Harouni, and headliner Tez Ilyas rounding out the evening with a sure-to-be-hilarious set of brand new material. The best part? There won't be a Zoom screen in sight!



The Colour of Our Politics

Javaad Alipoor, Tanya Vital

The Studio, Alhambra Theatre

11:45 (75 mins) £7

Over the last four months, Bradford-born creatives Javaad Alipoor and Tanya Vital have created a new podcast, exploring how anti-racism in the UK today has been shaped by a rich history of activism and resistance.

Throughout the series, they were joined by expert guests to discuss some of the epic stories of communities around the UK who have stood up against racism and imperialism – from the Asian Youth Movement to William Cuffay and the Chartists.

In this chaired discussion, Javaad and Tanya will be looking back on the podcast, discussing the history of anti-racism in the UK, asking hard questions about what's happening now and imagining what our future could look like.

You can find the podcast On Apple Podcasts and Spotify by searching for *The Colour of Our Politics*.



Tez Ilyas: The Secret Diary of a British Muslim Aged 13¾

Tez Ilyas, Rima Ahmed

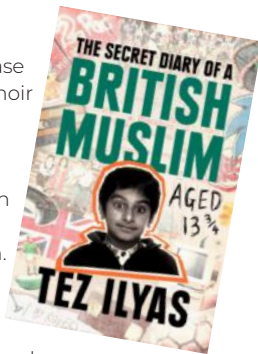
Princes Ballroom, The Midland Hotel

13:30 (60 mins) £7

You might know comedian Tez Ilyas from his TV appearances on shows such as *Mock The Week* and *The Last Leg*, but odds are you won't know anything about his life as a kid.

Join Ilyas as he celebrates the release of his teenage memoir by taking you on a guided tour of his childhood growing up as a British-Asian Muslim in a post-Thatcher Blackburn.

From running into muggers and dodging arranged marriages, to unlikely sexual experiences at the gym and getting a front row seat at cultural race riots, Ilyas' hilarious and often personal debut book leaves no stone unturned when discussing both his family life and 90s Britain.



Migration: The Changing Face of A Nation

Paul Mason, Peter Walsh, Aaqil Ahmed

Council Chamber, City Hall

13:30 (75 mins) £7

Migration has become one of the most divisive topics of recent years. Adopted by the Brexit party to cultivate a supposed 'crisis', this questionable message felt strangely at odds with the countless images of brave migrant frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With Britain on track to become more ethnically diverse in the coming years, we've gathered a panel of media commentators to look at just how British Britain really is and ask whether a national impression of British identity is still appropriate as cultures and communities continue to cluster.

By looking to the past and into the future, this thought-provoking discussion aims to explore how the movement and displacement of people has come to define the cultural conversation - and our collective future.



Stonehenge & the Durrington Shafts

Nick Snashall, Vince Gaffney

The Studio, Alhambra Theatre

14:30 (75 mins) £7

Spanning 1.2 miles and described by archaeologists as a 'masterpiece of engineering', the recent discovery of a circle of deep shafts near the Stonehenge heritage site changed our understanding of Neolithic life. Coined the 'Durrington Shafts', this mysterious find dates back more than four thousand years and was quickly labeled the largest prehistoric structure ever to be unearthed in Britain - but what was its purpose and significance to our ancestors?

To find out, we are joined by two of the leading experts behind the discovery to discuss the site's historical and cultural impact, and to explore the role of Stonehenge and other heritage sites in the modern world.



Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad: In Conversation

Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad

St George's Hall

15:00 (60 mins) £7

Following last year's hugely popular online event, we're delighted to welcome Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad to Bradford to continue the discussion of his latest book *Travelling Home: Essays on Islam in Europe*.

Dissecting the rise of Islamophobia on the basis of Muslim theological tradition, Murad describes how everywhere, the far right is on the march, with nationalist and populist parties thriving on the back of popular anxieties about Islam and the Muslim presence.

In this discussion he'll examine the question: how should we react to the new Islamophobic movements now spreading in the West?



Bradford Riots: 20 Years On

Barnie Choudhury, Adeeba Malik, Tim Smith

Banqueting Suite, City Hall

15:30 (75 mins) £7

On the 7th July 2001, an Anti Nazi League rally legally gathered in Centenary Square, Bradford. Following earlier riots in other parts of the country and a recent ban on a National Front march in the city, sympathisers of the far-right movement gathered to confront the rally, resulting in the stabbing of an Asian man.

Tensions between Bradford's British Asian and white communities exploded, resulting in two nights of intense rioting, including attacks on Asian-owned businesses and an arson attack on a local labour club.

Although the events of that summer left inevitable scars, they also triggered a new focus on uniting the diverse communities of Bradford. For this panel discussion, Editor of Eastern Eye Barnie Choudhury, QED Foundation Deputy Chief Executive Adeeba Malik and former head of BBC Yorkshire Tim Smith gather to reflect on how far the city has come since 2001 and the vastly improved community relations that exist today.



Giles Yeo: Why Calories Don't Count

Giles Yeo, Gisela Helfer

Banqueting Suite, City Hall

16:00 (60 mins) £7

What if everything we knew about dieting, healthy eating and calorie counting was wrong? It's this concept that forms the crux of Author Giles Yeo's eye-opening new book, which aims to dispel some of the most common misconceptions we all fall victim to whenever we try getting into shape.

Throughout this live panel discussion and audience Q&A, Yeo pulls from his academic background as an obesity researcher at Cambridge University to rewire our understanding of diets and explain why not all calories are created equal.

By explaining why popular diet schemes often succeed - and then ultimately fail - and how our environment can impact our wellbeing, this fact-packed session will leave audiences with practical, science-based advice on how they can regain control of their eating habits.



Paul Mason: How to Stop Fascism

Paul Mason

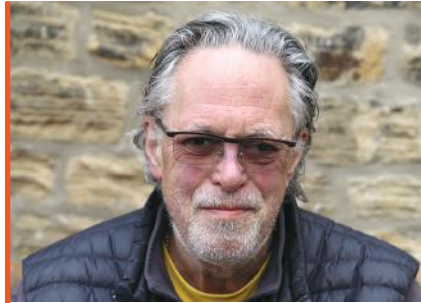
Princes Ballroom, The Midland Hotel

17:00 (60 mins) £7

Far-right sensibilities are on the rise. Whether it's Trump encouraging the Capitol Hill riots or the COVID chaos left in the wake of Brazil's conspiracy-theorist leader Bolsonaro, everyday fascism has never felt more prevalent nor, sadly, more commonplace.

However, according to journalist, commentator and author Paul Mason's eye-opening new book *How To Stop Fascism*, this rise in cultural tension is nothing new and wholly avoidable – if we know how to fight it.

Join Mason as he cuts through the noise to explain why far-right factions and contemporary fascism are living proof of capitalism gone wrong, before sharing some tips on how we can stop it in its tracks.



David Lascelles: A Hare-Marked Moon

David Lascelles

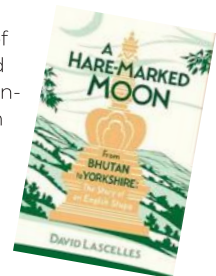
Waterstones, The Wool Exchange

19:00 (60 mins) £7

In 2004 Film Producer and the 8th Earl of Harewood, David Lascelles, invited a group of Bhutan monks to build a Stupa on the grounds of Yorkshire's iconic Harewood House.

Designed to bring harmony and calm chaotic forces, Lascelles hoped the stupa's arrival might cleanse the estate's troubled links to Britain's colonial past, whilst redefining his own relationship with an area that's intrinsically linked to his own family history.

The finished project was a merging of cultures that delved deep into the history of both parties. Hear Lascelles share stories of the stupa's creation and impact during this live in-conversation event with Nima Poovaya-Smith.



**Saturday
26th June**



Lyricl Mehfil

Jason Allen-Paisant, Jo Brandon, John Siddique,
John Hegley, Joelle Taylor, Kate Fox

The Studio, Alhambra Theatre

19:30 (150 mins) £10

Arrive engaged and prepare to leave inspired as we host a celebration of poetry and the written word featuring a selection of the UK's brightest upcoming artists.

Inspired by the mehfil of old which invited small groups into the homes and palaces of South Asian nobility to experience live entertainment.

Compere Kate Fox guides you through an unforgettable spoken word showcase, featuring a headlining performance from John Hegley, and appearances by Joelle Taylor, John Siddique, Jo Brandon and Jason Allen-Paisant.



Jason Allen-Paisant



Jo Brandon



Kate Fox



John Siddique



John Hegley



Joelle Taylor

**Sunday
27th June**



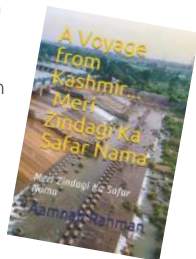
A Voyage From Kashmir

Aamnah Rahman, Irna Qureshi

Banqueting Suite, City Hall

11:00 (60 mins) £7

On the surface, *A Voyage From Kashmir* chronicles the life of author Aamnah Rahman's father, Abdul Rehman Khan. From entering the British Indian Army at just 16 years old, to witnessing the partition of the Indian subcontinent, Rahman's esteemed experiences span eight-decades and are full of first-hand glimpses at many key moments in both South Asian and British culture.



However, the story of Rahman's father is also intertwined with personal accounts of the many struggles experienced by Kashmiri/Pakistani immigrants during their transition from their homeland to the West.

During this live in-conversation event, Rahman discusses this touching, pertinent and deeply personal story with writer Irna Qureshi.



Rudi Leavor: My Story

Rudi Leavor, Remona Aly

Bradford Reform Synagogue

12:00 (60 mins) £7

Rudi Leavor has led an extraordinary life. As a child, he experienced numerous anti-semitic incidents in Berlin before being forced to flee the Gestapo alongside his parents and sister when he was just 11 years old.

Finding refuge in Bradford, Leavor went on to follow in his father's footsteps and become a successful dentist. He guided the restoration of the city's Grade II listed Reform Synagogue and in 2017 was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his extensive work in the local Jewish community and interfaith community relations.

During this eye-opening conversation, Leavor will share aspects of his remarkable life - all of which are featured in his new book, *Rudi Leavor, My Story* - before answering audience questions.



Masle Masail

Ifra Kauser, Irna Qureshi

Kala Sangam

13:00 (75 mins) £7

Bring an inquisitive mind to this women only event, offering the opportunity to seek advice on Islamic matters from an experienced female scholar.

Islamic scholar and lawyer Ifra Kauser will respond to a selection of questions, submitted anonymously, covering the most common and popular themes.

Questions from women only must be submitted in advance to **info@bradfordlitfest.co.uk** by Friday 18th June.



Sick Women

Alice Hattrick, Elinor Cleghorn

Chamber, City Hall

15:00 (60 mins) £7

Misogynistic misdiagnosis has long been something women of all ages have had to endure - and despite breakthroughs in social sensitivity and cultural awareness, it's still worryingly common. From ignored symptoms, to medical biases based entirely around gender, recent studies have shown women are around 30% more likely to be misdiagnosed when it comes to their health.

With these thoughts firmly in mind, join us as we welcome a panel of experts including author Alice Hattrick and historian Elinor Cleghorn for a conversation on the theme of sick women. From hysteria to the ways in which lockdown, COVID-19 and recent vaccine trials have revealed lingering gender inequalities, we'll delve into women's experiences of ill health and the health system.



Mehfil-e-Milad

Shabnam Khan

Kala Sangam

15:00 (90 mins) £7

Join us for a women-only afternoon of devotional performance featuring singer Shabnam Khan.

Khan will recite some of her favourite Hamds - well-known poems written specifically in praise of Allah; and Naats - poems which pay respect to Prophet Muhammed.



Ellery Hanley in Conversation

Ellery Hanley

St George's Hall

18:00 (60 mins) £7

Widely considered to be one of the best rugby players to ever grace the field, we're delighted to be joined by sporting legend and Yorkshire's own, Ellery Hanley, during this year's festival.

Throughout his 19-year professional career, Hanley played for teams like Bradford Northern, Wigan and Leeds before winning 35 caps for Great Britain and a further two for England. Earning the nickname 'Mr Magic', Hanley's prowess on the field and off was legendary - inspiring countless stories that are joyfully shared by fans and fellow players to this day.

Hear some of these stories first hand as Hanley joins us for an in-depth discussion about his prolific life and career. An unmissable opportunity to spend the evening with a sporting icon.



Saima Mir: The Khan

Saima Mir, Ayisha Malik

Waterstones, The Wool Exchange

19:00 (60 mins) £7

Crime, justice and family mix with explosive consequences in Bradford-born author Saima Mir's brilliant, gritty debut novel which has been described as addictive. Jai Khan is a successful lawyer whose cushy London life feels worlds away from her childhood spent on the troubled Northern streets. Back then, it was her father who laid down the law as the leader of the local organised crime syndicate, with his archaic and often bloody Jirga rule used to dish out justice.

However when her Dad is suddenly murdered, Jai finds herself yanked back into the family business - where ruthless power struggles, warring communities and street violence are all-too common. Join us as Mir discusses *The Khan* with fellow author Ayisha Malik.

**Monday
28th June**



The Frequency of Magic

Anthony Joseph

The Studio, Alhambra Theatre

19:00 (60 mins) £7

Award-winning author, poet and musician, Anthony Joseph, joins this year's line-up to deliver a one-of-a-kind performance that spans spoken word, literature and improvised jazz.

Appearing in celebration of his experimental new novel, *The Frequency of Magic* - which tells the tale of a wannabe Trinidadian author whose long-delayed book begins to magically write itself - this enthralling event is sure to be a stand-out moment of our 2021 festival.

Joined by a musical ensemble, Joseph will perform *The Frequency of Magic* in its entirety, inviting you into his latest work whilst weaving the narrative into an evening of freeform music and performance. No two shows by Joseph are the same, making this truly a one-off experience.

**Wednesday
30th June**



Undercliffe Cemetery - Twilight Tour

Undercliffe Cemetery

20:00 (90 mins) £7

Step back in time to Victorian Bradford as local historian John Jackson leads you on a twilight tour of Undercliffe Cemetery.

Throughout this eye-opening 'toddle round the tombs', Jackson will share insight into the cemetery's history, from its opening in 1854 right up to the present day. Discover the looming gravestones that house Bradford's social elite of old and explore the final resting places that mark the graves of those less fortunate, who were on the lower end of the social ladder.

An engaging evening for historians and curious locals alike, this atmospheric walking tour will forever change your understanding of Undercliffe Cemetery and all who rest here.



Poetry with a Punch

Anthony Anaxagorou, Inua Ellams,

Jay Bernard, Cecilia Knapp, lisa luxx

The Studio, Alhambra Theatre

19:30 (120 mins) £10

Poetry With A Punch promises an evening of political wordplay as a selection of sharp-tongued poets regale us with prose with purpose - designed to inspire, challenge and provoke.

This ever-popular annual event boasts a line-up that mixes exciting up-and-comers with established names working at the top of their game, including Barbershop Quartet playwright and poet Inua Ellams, feminist writer and activist lisa luxx and Young People's Laureate for London Cecilia Knapp,

Powerful, dynamic and packed full of new perspectives, it's a larger-than-life live event set to illuminate the Alhambra Theatre's intimate studio space.



Anthony
Anaxagorou



Inua Ellams



Cecilia Knapp



lisa luxx



Jay Bernard

**Friday
2nd July**



**An Evening with
Nitin Sawhney:
hosted by Bobby Friction**

Nitin Sawhney, Bobby Friction

The Studio, Alhambra Theatre

19:00 (60 mins) £7

Nitin Sawhney is one of the UK's most prolific and critically acclaimed artists, balancing award-winning studio albums with over sixty film and television scores, and collaborations with prolific artists including Paul McCartney, Jeff Beck, David Gilmour, Jools Holland, Anoushka Shankar, Nora Jones, Annie Lennox & Herbie Hancock.

Join the Ivor Novello Lifetime Achievement Award recipient as he discusses his remarkable life with BBC Asian Networks iconic DJ Bobby Friction, touching on his early comedy career with Sanjeev Bhaskar, his British Indian roots, his views on the state of the nation today and what's next for him on his unique musical journey.

**Saturday
3rd July**



**Horrible Haworth?
The Real Brontë Country**

Ann Dinsdale, Michael Stewart,

Stephen Whitehead

French Ballroom, The Midland Hotel

12:00 (75 mins) £7

Modern day Haworth is widely considered to be a gem of rural Yorkshire with its abundance of rolling hills and show-stopping natural beauty - however it wasn't always so picturesque.

In the time of the Brontës, this inspiring landscape was a hotbed of death and disease that, according to historians, was one of the most unsanitary parts of 18th century Britain.

This impacted directly on the area's most well known literary family resulting in the Brontë sisters' ill health and untimely deaths. Join our panel as they discuss the juxtaposition of picturesque landscapes with the unsanitary conditions the Brontë family lived in, what role this played in the family's work and ask whether we as readers romanticise the troubled environment in which they lived.



Black Lives Matter: Has Anything Changed?

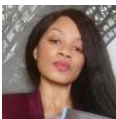
Guilaine Kinouani, Joshua Varisami,
Kehinde Andrews

Council Chamber, City Hall

13:15 (75 mins) £7

A year has passed since the murder of George Floyd united the world in protest, vigils and demonstrations supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. However despite crowds flooding city streets, organisations vehemently committing to change and a global social media blackout pushing this long-running movement to the front of the cultural conversation, pro-black activism is still met with hostility in many places.

To explore how much has actually changed, how far we've come and how far we still need to go, we've gathered a panel of experts including writer-activist Joshua Virasami, psychologist and author Guilaine Kinouani, and academic and activist Kehinde Andrews to dissect and analyse this generation-defining grassroots movement.



Guilaine
Kinouani



Joshua
Varisami



Kehinde
Andrews



Unhappy Homes and Unromantic Heroes

Sam Baker, Claire O'Callaghan

French Ballroom, The Midland Hotel

14:30 (75 mins) £7

Widely considered to be one of the first feminist novels, Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* quickly became infamous for its candid depictions of marital abuse and violence. Similarly, a contemporary lens reveals a sinister side to the 'heroes' of Jane Eyre and *Wuthering Heights* - Rochester and Heathcliffe.

By inspecting these themes - and other examples found in the wider Brontë canon - this panel discussion invites you to re-evaluate the ways in which the darker sides of spousal relationships unwittingly inspired some of the earliest radical literature.



The Lost Homestead

Marina Wheeler

Banqueting Suite, City Hall

15:00 (60 mins) £7

Over sixty years have passed since the Partition of India and yet its impact can still be felt decades later. After months of civil unrest, many families were forced to leave their homes and reclaim new lives elsewhere as the division of British India into India and Pakistan took hold.

By retelling the life of her mother, Dip Singh, barrister and human rights lawyer Marina Wheeler's *The Lost Homestead* spans chaos, new beginnings, migration, neighborhood and identity.

By speaking to her Indian family and conducting extensive research into both India and Pakistan, Wheeler shares a story that feels all too pertinent to the fractured world we find ourselves in today.





Blood Ah Go Run

Jay Bernard, Linton Kwesi Johnson,
Kehinde Andrews

The Studio, Alhambra Theatre

15:30 (90 mins) £7

It's been 40 years since the New Cross Fire, a devastating event that's considered a pivotal moment in the UK's fight for race equality. Despite the incident claiming 13 young black lives, this tragic loss was met with indifference from the media, police and politicians - spurring on history-making activism.

Years later, grim parallels can be seen in 2017's Grenfell fire, Black Lives Matter and continued racism at the hands of far-right groups. However, out of this grief came a wealth of poems, books and songs.

Join us as we welcome a panel including poet Linton Kwesi Johnson and academic and activist Kehinde Andrews to reflect on the legacy of this historic tragedy and its links to recent events. Audiences will also be treated to a performance of Johnson's iconic *New Cross Massakah*.



Jay Bernard



Linton Kwesi
Johnson



Kehinde
Andrews



The Right Sort of Girl

Anita Rani

Waterstones, The Wool Exchange

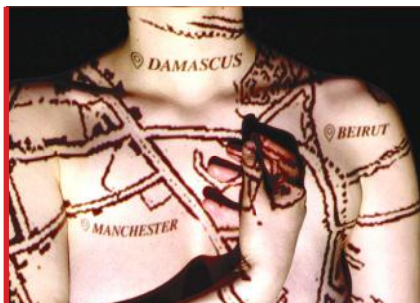
18:30 (60 mins) £7

Award winning presenter Anita Rani has spent years lighting up the screen with appearances on *Countryfile*, *Strictly Come Dancing* and most recently Netflix. However, before all that she was a young woman trying to balance her Indian homelife with the wider British world in her hometown of Bradford.

By sharing empowering tales from her youth, Rani's memoir *The Right Sort of Girl* acts as a letter to her 16-year-old self, taking us behind the scenes of her own coming-of-age journey. It's the story of a second-generation British Indian woman trying to find her place in Northern England - all while being labelled too white inside of her family home and too brown outside of it.



Unflinchingly honest and packed full of humour, charm and wit - join Rani as she recalls a quest for identity that helped her to become the woman she is today.



Eating the Copper Apple #1

lisa lxxx

The Studio, Alhambra Theatre

19:00 (60 mins) £7

Embark on a journey from West Yorkshire to the borders of Syria in this soul-searching tale of identity written by one of the most exciting new voices working in theatre today.

Mixing themes of loss, dreams and fulfilment with ideas of family, romance and culture, this new work from award-winning performer *lisa lxxx* is a one-woman powerhouse. Exploring *lxxx*'s relationship to her own mixed-heritage body, it asks us to consider how we become the people we are while questioning the role displacement plays in forming our identity.

Funny, philosophical and utterly fearless, this explorative production is a chance to see a multi-discipline performer working at the top of their game.



Sufiana Kalaam

Abi Sampa, Rushil & Amrit Singh

St George's Hall

20:00 (120 mins) £15

Always a stand out moment of our annual festival, this year's Sufiana Kalaam will feature appearances from musician Abi Sampa and singer-songwriters Rushil and Amrit Singh.

Taking its cues from the centuries-old Sufi poetry events made famous by South Asian culture, this evening of captivating live performance is set to light up Bradford's iconic St George's Hall.

Serving up 'orchestral Qawwali' vibes, the trio will pull from over 700 years of Sufi tradition to super collide a historic and mesmerising style with a range of modern Western influences.



In the Footsteps of the Brontës

Host: Michael Stewart

Meet at Brontë Bell Chapel, Thornton Village

10:00 (300 mins) £7

Set off on a walking tour following in the footsteps of Yorkshire's most famous literary siblings, taking you from the Brontës' birthplace in Thornton village to the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth.

As you travel through the stunning Yorkshire landscape, your guide - Brontë Stones Project originator Michael Stewart - will share stories behind the written responses of Carol Ann Duffy, Kate Bush, Jackie Kay, and Jeanette Winterson to the famous literary sisters which were specifically commissioned by the festival in 2018.

An eight-mile, five-hour trek - this walking tour passes through narrow styles, slippery surfaces, steps and uneven ground. Appropriate footwear and weather durable clothing is essential.



Little Germany Tour

Host: Nigel Grizzard

Meet at the Digital Exchange

10:00 (90 mins) £7

Explore the architectural history and industrial heritage of Bradford's vibrant cultural quarter, Little Germany, on this informative walking tour led by local historian Nigel Grizzard.

Attracted by the wool trade, groups of primarily Jewish German merchants settled in Bradford during the mid 19th century. Soon, they began constructing buildings in which to store their exportable goods, mirroring the ornate structures found in their European home. Their grandeur became famous, transforming Bradford into a hub for international trade following a disruption in commercial sales between France and Germany after the Franco-Prussian war.

Packed with insider knowledge, Grizzard's walking tour will bring you face-to-face with this forgotten world by leading you through the country's largest collection of beautiful listed buildings. Comfortable footwear and weather appropriate clothing are essential.



Britain After Brexit

Peter Ricketts, Penny Richards

Council Chamber, City Hall

13:00 (75 mins) £7

Six months have passed since the UK officially left the European Union and yet the debate surrounding Brexit still feels painfully fresh for Remainers and Brexiteers alike.

With rhetoric, hyperbole and inaccuracies rife on both sides of the equation, how can we be sure what life without the EU means for our new relationship with our global neighbours and the rest of the wider world?

To shed some light on these timely cultural questions, we've gathered a group of experts to discuss the practical challenges that we can expect moving forward while we attempt to redefine a divisive, yet once-key relationship.



Jewish Manningham Tour

Host: Nigel Grizzard

Meet at Bradford Reform Synagogue

13:00 (90 mins) £7

Uncover the cultural history and lasting impact of Bradford's Jewish community in this tour of Manningham, an area that was once home to the city's thriving Jewish Quarter.

Arriving around 1820, a growing community of German Jews transformed this small corner of Bradford into a bustling hub of industrial trade and breathtaking architecture. Throughout this informal walking tour, local historian Nigel Grizzard will lead you around Manningham whilst sharing stories about the merchant princes who helped shape the space and key cultural figures.

This stroll through Manningham's illustrious Jewish quarter will start inside Bradford Synagogue and span approximately two miles. Attendees are encouraged to bring comfortable footwear and weather appropriate clothing.



The #MeToo Movement: 15 Years On

Tanya Seriesier, Catriona Morton

Banqueting Suite, City Hall

13:45 (75 mins) £7

Fifteen years have passed since Tarana Burke first originated the #MeToo movement to end sexual abuse and harrasment - a campaign that forever changed the social discourse following the extensive allegations made against movie producer Harvey Weinstein in 2017.

Using this critical juncture as a jumping off point, we've invited a panel of experts to inspect the movement's efficiency in the fight against gendered sexual violence for various communities across the world. Who's being included and who's being left behind? What are the lasting implications for those who have spoken out? How has rape culture responded to the heightened awareness around sexual violence?

Each of these topics will be considered as we explore the #MeToo movement's role in fighting sexual violence, ask if it's actually working and ponder what comes next.



Qasida al-Burda

Zanaab Jabar, Ustadha Siddiqa Sarwar

Kala Sangam

14:00 (120 mins) £7

Qasida al-Burda (hymn of the mantle) is a poem that was composed by poet, scholar and spiritual master Imam al-Busiri in the 11th century. It has been a mainstay of Muslim choral tradition across the globe.

The Burda (as it's often called) is the quintessence of devotional praise and expression of love for Prophet Muhammad. Traditionally it has been memorised and recited in gatherings, adapted uniquely in tune and rhythm to the different cultures that sing it in gatherings – often special occasions of celebration and healing for the sick.

Though it was originally written in Arabic, Ustadha Siddiqa Sarwar will take us through its 10 chapters in English and Urdu translations as well as Arabic in an uplifting gathering for women.

Please note, this event is for women only.



Indian Sun: The Life and Music of Ravi Shankar

Oliver Craske

The Studio, Alhambra Theatre

15:30 (90 mins) £7

One of the most famous and significant musicians of all time, Ravi Shankar's legacy goes beyond his pioneering of Indian classical music. The artist's compositional imagination and instrumental prowess would influence jazz, minimalism, electronic music and more over the course of his extraordinary ninety-two years. George Harrison of the Beatles, John Coltrane and Philip Glass are just some of the musicians he worked with, introducing the sitar into Western consciousness as an international cultural ambassador.

Published to coincide with the centenary of Ravi Shankar's birth, author Oliver Craske's biography *Indian Sun* explores the life of the luminary musician through interviews and unprecedented access to the family archives. Join us for an event that celebrates the compelling story of the masterful composer with insights from Craske, accompanied by demonstrations of Shankar's musical legacy from sitarist Jasdeep Singh Degun.



Disunited Kingdom

Ian Dunt, Gavin Esler

Council Chamber, City Hall

15:45 (75 mins) £7

Just how united is the United Kingdom? With Brexit ushering in a time of drastic change across our four nations, the UK's relationship with the European Union and wider world has never been more ambiguous.

As Wales dreams of devolution, Scotland weighs up its own independence and Ireland's unification issues continue to make headlines, discussions about electoral and parliamentary reform have invaded the cultural conversation. To make matters more complex, controversial political campaigns promising referendums and touting links to nationalism, heritage and identity have made the idea of unity one of the hottest topics of the day.

To explore the state of the union and what the future of the United Kingdom's four nations might look like, we've gathered a panel of experts to share their thoughts.



Dawn of the Matriarchy

Christina Sweeney-Baird,

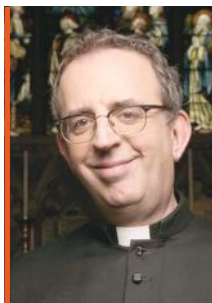
Tice Cin, Anne Karpf

Banqueting Suite, City Hall

16:30 (90 mins) £7

What would the world look like if it was led by women? Join us as we explore this idea during a panel discussion, exploring how matriarchal structures have organically formed and improved societies in the past and present day, before imagining what future matriarchal cities and worlds might look like.

With a mixture of non-fiction seriousness, literary imagination and not-so-serious speculation, join author and journalist Christina Sweeney-Baird, poet and artist Tice Cin and writer, sociologist and journalist Anne Karpf for an open discussion of feminist thought informed by literary work, societal changes, global affairs and science.



Grief: A Conversation

Richard Coles, Peg Alexander, Arifa Akbar

Midland Hotel

17:00 (60 mins) £7

The past twelve months have left us with a lot to digest and, for many, plenty of unexpected grief.

It's this topic that forms the backbone of a conversation between two authors whose work delves deep into the unpredictable rollercoaster of sudden loss. Reverend Richard Coles' *The Madness of Grief: A Memoir of Love and Loss* takes an unflinching look at the emotional chaos left behind in the wake of his partner's death. Meanwhile, Arifa Akbar's *Consumed: A Sister's Story* presents a touching portrait of the journey of discovery triggered by the unexpected loss of her sibling.

Neither hold back when venturing into grief's darkest corners, yet each emerges from the depths with a renewed sense of understanding and hope. Join Coles and Akbar as they unpack this personal, universal and pertinent issue in what's sure to be a stand-out festival moment.



Katharine Parr, The Sixth Wife

Alison Weir

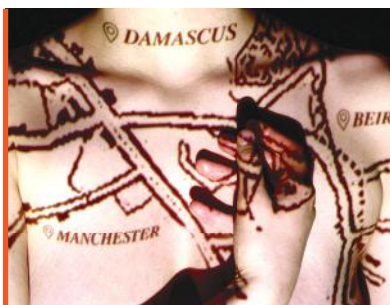
Waterstones, The Wool Exchange

19:00 (60 mins) £7

Critically acclaimed author, historian and Sunday Times bestseller, Alison Weir, returns to the festival to discuss the final instalment of her Six Tudor Queens book series which chronicle the lives, times and struggles of Henry VIII's wives.

As Henry's sixth and final queen, Katharine Parr is torn between love and duty. With secret beliefs that could lead to an untimely end and affection for another that must stay hidden from her new King, hers is a powerful tale of a woman who rose boldly to every challenge life brought her.

Throughout this hour-long talk, Weir sifts through the myths and the history books to introduce us to a warm, kindly heroine and an extraordinary historical figure.



Eating the Copper Apple #2

lisa luxx

The Studio, Alhambra Theatre

19:00 (60 mins) £7

Embark on a journey from West Yorkshire to the borders of Syria in this soul-searching tale of identity written by one of the most exciting new voices working in theatre today.

Mixing themes of loss, dreams and fulfilment with ideas of family, romance and culture, this new work from award-winning performer *lisa luxx* is a one-woman powerhouse. Exploring *luxx*'s relationship to her own mixed-heritage body, it asks us to consider how we become the people we are while questioning the role displacement plays in forming our identity.

Funny, philosophical and utterly fearless, this explorative production is a chance to see a multi-discipline performer working at the top of their game.



Sacred Music

Bradford Cathedral

19:30 (120 mins) £7

Step inside the spectacular Bradford Cathedral for an enchanting evening of spiritual poetry and sacred music in a truly unforgettable space.

Featuring a range of devotional styles, this intimate showcase will celebrate a range of music and transcendental poetry from across the religious spectrum - all framed against one of Bradford's most beautiful buildings.

Always a stand-out moment of our annual festival, this is an evening that will leave you uplifted and feeling connected to the world's wider selection of spiritual beliefs.



Caitlin Moran LIVE: More Than A Woman

Caitlin Moran

St George's Hall

19:30 (75 mins) From £22

Caitlin will be discussing her new book, *More Than A Woman*, a hymn to women in their 30s and 40s and their supernatural ability to deal with the stuff you never thought would happen to you: grey hair, hangovers that last for days, ageing parents, having sex with the same person for years and years and still saying 'thank you' afterwards – the list goes on.

Don't miss this opportunity to join Caitlin for a joyous and hilarious evening filled with uplifting tales of mothers, daughters, female friendship, and life in and beyond your thirties.

Every ticket includes a paperback copy of *More Than A Woman* to be collected from St George's Hall on the night.

This event is in partnership with Bradford Theatres, Bradford Literature Festival, and Penguin Live Events. Ticket prices for this event have been set by the promoter on a national level and therefore differs from the usual Bradford Literature Festival pricing structure. If you have any further queries please contact a member of the Bradford Literature Festival team.



Undercliffe Cemetery Literary Tour

Undercliffe Cemetery

20:00 (90 mins) £7

When Nancy Malone, one-time caretaker for the Brontë children, was asked by a local reporter what her dying wish would be, her answer was simple: not to be buried in a pauper's grave. Despite this, after passing away in 1886, she was laid to rest alongside her sister in an unmarked plot in Undercliffe Cemetery.

More than a century later, thanks to the help of the Undercliffe Cemetery Charity, Charlotte Brontë's nurse was finally granted her dying wish: a proper headstone.

Led by tour guides Gaynor Halliday and Steve Lightfoot, Nancy's fascinating story is brought to life once more, together with tales of authors, poets and painters who also reside within the grounds of this historic cemetery.

Craig Brown, winner of the 2020
Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction.
Issue 42

AWARDED

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For more information, you can access the current issue from the festival website.



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Actual Investors



The Runaway Girls

Jacqueline Wilson

On Demand, Free

Available from 25 June 2021

For over thirty years, acclaimed children's author Jacqueline Wilson has been delighting readers with her much-loved stories of troubled 10-year-old Tracy Beaker. Cut to 2021 and Wilson is still creating best-selling fiction, sharing even more alluring childhood tales with her latest coming-of-age adventure, *The Runaway Girls*.

Set in Victorian London, Wilson's latest follows Lucy Lockett, a well-to-do fun-seeker who swaps her happy home for a life on the streets where she soon meets plucky performer Kitty Fisher. The pair quickly hit it off - but while Lucy and Kitty embrace their freedom-fuelled friendship, the threat of local thieves and the dreaded workhouse start to close in.

An expert at sensitively reflecting the growing pains we all experience, this is a must see opportunity Jacqueline Wilson fans and youth fiction fanatics alike.



Discoveries: Writing Novels With the Women's Prize Trust

Kate Mosse, Abi Daré, Felicity Blunt

Zoom Video Conference

Saturday 26 June, 15:00

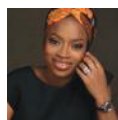
Penning a potential best-selling novel? Tired of being the only one who knows about it? Make it a reality with this tip-filled masterclass hosted in partnership with the Women's Prize Trust.

Throughout an informal panel discussion, bestselling author and Women's Prize for Fiction founder Kate Mosse is joined by debut novelist Abi Daré and Curtis Brown Literary Agent Felicity Blunt to share exclusive insider-advice on how to get your work finished and published.

From perfecting your voice and learning some plot-moving narrative tools, to securing an agent and getting your writing seen - this digital event will provide you with everything you need to know about writing and releasing your debut novel - with room for questions at the end.



Kate Mosse



Abi Daré



Felicity Blunt



Writing Workshops Simon & Schuster UK

On Demand, Free

Available from 26 June 2021

We're offering 12 informal workshop sessions for up to 12 attendees per session, with editors from Simon & Schuster UK. These leading industry figures will provide guidance, advice and support to new writers, answer their burning questions and diffuse some of the mystique around writing and publishing.

We have included the list of fiction, non-fiction and children's editors taking part in the event below. If you would like to attend the event, we ask that you please select a first and second choice of editor you would like to be matched with, based on the genre of writing you are passionate about.

The events will take place online between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 26 June, via Zoom, and each session will last an hour. At the end of the day, from 4pm to 5pm, all the participants will get the chance to join a public-facing Zoom session where all of the editors will come together to lay out their top tips and answer audience questions.

In line with our aim to make cultural engagement more accessible, we are keen for participants to live or work in the North of England. If you are an aspiring debut author working on a manuscript, you won't want to miss this event. Your idea might just be what the editors are looking for!



Producers of the Future: From Keighley to Karachi

On Demand, Free

Available from 26 June 2021

Join us to mark the launch of a groundbreaking international digital talent development programme, which equips women of Pakistani heritage in Pakistan and Britain with the tools they need to develop successful careers in the creative industries. The programme is a collaboration between BLF and Adab Festival in Pakistan, and is backed by the British Council Digital Collaboration Fund.

The event will introduce the participants – five from Bradford district and five from Pakistan – who will curate and deliver a weekend of digital literature festival events for public audiences at BLF's Words in the Winter in November. The women will put their questions to Syima Aslam, Director and CEO of Bradford Literature Festival, and Aameena Saiyid, Director of Adab Festival in Karachi, about their personal journeys towards creating innovative literature festivals.



The Seven Necessary Sins for Women and Girls

Mona Eltahawy

On Demand, Free

Available from 27 June 2021

Join writer Mona Eltahawy for an inspiring discussion of her bold and uncompromising feminist manifesto, *The Seven Necessary Sins for Women and Girls*.

Drawing on the energy behind the #MeToo movement, Eltahawy takes the 'seven necessary sins' women and girls are not supposed to commit and transforms them into a call to arms in the fight against the patriarchy.



Incorporating stories from marginalised women around the world, this event invites you to draw on your inner fury and start to dismantle the systems that hold us all back.



Worlds After Windrush

Yvonne Bailey-Smith, Leone Ross, Louise Hare

On Demand, Free

Available from 27 June 2021

Themes of immigration, new possibilities and unexpected challenges connect the work of the three authors taking part in our digital panel discussion on Worlds After Windrush.

Yvonne Bailey-Smith's *The Day I Fell Off My Island* introduces us to a young Jamaican girl forced to leave her life behind and start anew in London; *This One Sky* sees Leone Ross tell a story of love and loss in a fictional Caribbean archipelago while Louise Hare's bittersweet *This Lovely City* invites us to witness a community turn on a once-loved Windrush musician after an unexpected incident.

While each takes a different narrative route, a spirit of worldbuilding, society and Windrush experience runs throughout all three. Hear Bailey-Smith, Ross and Hare engage in a rich exchange during this digital event.



Not Quite Right For Us: Tales of Love

Host: Syima Aslam

On Demand, Free

Available from 27 June 2021

Love touches us all at some point — from dependable familial bonds to the warm comfort of childhood pets, from the heady perfume of romance to the cherished appreciation of community, culture, country. The physical and emotional connections transcend barriers, cross generations and borders. And yet, love can sometimes be 'not quite right', taking where it should be giving, causing destruction — even as we still love.



Watch this film featuring authors from the Not Quite Right for Us anthology, where Amina Atiq, Richard Georges, Leone Ross, Gaele Sobott and Selina Tusitala Marsh tell some of the myriad love stories that make up our lives.

This is a Speaking Volumes production funded by Arts Council England.



The Poetry Pharmacy

William Sieghart

On Demand, Free

Available from 28 June

Publisher, philanthropist and founder of National Poetry Day, William Sieghart, brings his feel-good Poetry Pharmacy to Bradford Literature Festival.

A collection of poems and prose designed to lift the spirits, provide comfort, inspire and delight, Sieghart's latest anthology of therapeutic wordplay has been toured up and down the country and feels particularly necessary following the trying few months we've all endured.

Sieghart will discuss poetic prescriptions that could help anyone struggling through a difficult time - from heartbreak and loneliness, to a lack of courage or an excess of ego.



How To Read Numbers: A Digital Masterclass on News Statistics

Tom Chivers, David Chivers

On Demand, Free

Available from 28 June 2021

Access to information has never been more readily available but deciphering the accurate from the absurd has never been trickier. With statistics on any number of topics a smartphone swipe away, how can we be sure that the data we digest on a daily basis is actually correct?

During this online workshop the authors behind fact-checking guide How To Read Numbers, Tom and David Chivers, will share insight on how you can ensure the information you encounter is accurate.

A crash course on reading and understanding statistics in an age of data-led journalism, this digital masterclass will equip you with a very modern - and pertinent - set of life skills.



A New Plath Through The Darkness: Redefining Sylvia Plath

Heather Clark, Connie Palmen

On Demand, Free

Available from 30 June 2021

We know poet and novelist Sylvia Plath as one of the most celebrated voices in American literature and a figure bathed in tragedy - but what if these perceptions are wrong? It's this idea that forms the backbone of two new texts, each presenting a fresh view of this iconic poet and author.

Connie Palman's *Your Story, My Story* breathes new life into Plath's world by recounting a fictionalised portrayal of her love affair with fellow poet Ted Hughes. Meanwhile, Heather Clark's biography *Red Comet* unearths new material that paints Plath as an unlikely figure of trailblazing hope.

With these exciting publications as our guide, join us for a digital discussion that sets out to redefine our perception of a literary legend.



Diary of a Young Naturalist and Wild Child

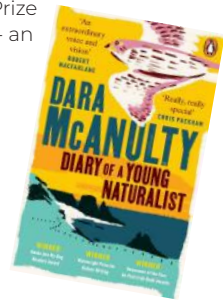
Dara McNulty

On Demand, Free

Available from 1 July 2021

At just 17 years-old, Northern Irish environmentalist and author Dara McNulty is the youngest person to win the RSPB Medal and to be shortlisted for the 2020 Wainwright Prize for UK Nature Writing - an accolade he also won.

Throughout his debut book *Diary of a Young Naturalist*, McNulty chronicles his deep connection to the natural world through the raw and often lyrical point of view of an autistic teenager juggling mental health issues with life as a modern-day environmental activist.



We're delighted to be joined by McNulty as he takes us inside his unique world to illuminate how his intense connection to nature acts as a soothing balm for severe anxiety and helps him overcome life's difficulties.



Jacqueline Wilson: 10 Books That Changed My Life

Jacqueline Wilson

On Demand, Free

Available from 2 July 2021

Acclaimed author Jacqueline Wilson has touched the lives of countless young adults with her hilarious and relatable stories - most notably those following troubled 10-year-old Tracy Beaker.

Through additional series like *Girls*, *Hetty Feather* and countless stand-alone novels, Wilson has earned critical acclaim for her sensitive handling of big topics like divorce, loneliness and mental health. But what are the key texts that impacted her life and influenced her narrative style?

Join Wilson as she delves into her extensive personal library to select the 10 books that changed her life.



Rumi: The Revelation of the Self

Ustadh Feraidoon Mojadedi

Zoom Conference

Available from 2 July, 19:00

*'You are not a drop in the ocean.
You are the entire ocean in a drop'*
Rumi

Rumi known worldwide as a great mystical poet, the best selling poet in the English language and quoted by millions around the world. But is there more to his poetry than one-liners used for profile statuses?

Join us as Ustadh Feraidoon Mojadedi takes us through the inspiring poetry of Mawlana Rumi diving into the path of inner transformation. The conversation offers you the opportunity to go deep into the spiritual and mystical journey a seeker undertakes in the quest for eternal union, involving a state of annihilation of the Self.



Western Muslims in the Shadow of 9/11

Shiraz Maher, Saeed Khan

On Demand, Free

Available from 3 July 2021

The 9/11 terrorist attacks targeting New York and Washington DC shook the foundations of Western society and changed the world as we know it. A 'War on Terror' followed – a war with no clear goal or end in sight. But the tragedy also catalysed an unexpected outcome for Muslims worldwide, as many would become defined by the actions of extremist hijackers who had seized the name of their religion in vain.

Twenty years on, an entire generation has grown up in the shadow of 9/11 which has never known a time free of the widespread Islamophobia triggered by these events. Join radicalisation expert and historian Shiraz Maher and global studies lecturer Saeed Khan for a conversation around how 9/11 has shaped the lives of Muslims in the West, asking if the world can ever move beyond defining them by their faith.



Losing Control: Global Security in the 21st Century

Paul Rogers

On Demand, Free

Available from 3 July 2021

Originally published in the late 1990s, *Losing Control* is Paul Rogers' seminal work of geopolitical conflict and military analysis, predicting the endless war on terror and the increase in revolts from the margins.

In this talk, Rogers discusses the newly revised and expanded edition, predicting the crucial junctures in the years to come, exploring the potential for future military activity and pointing to the 2030s and 40s as decades of immense change.



Spiritual Significance of Islamic Architecture

Mostafa al-Badawi

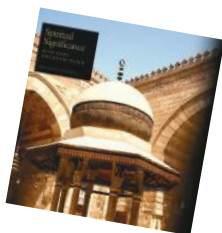
On Demand, Free

Available from 3 July 2021

Islamic Architecture is amongst the most recognisable and admired in the world. It is known for its beauty, precision and timelessness, but few understand the meanings and metaphors that underpin it.

We are honoured to host Dr Mostafa al-Badawi, in conversation with Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad, as he takes us on a journey with authoritative textual references through the deeper and long-forgotten meanings of many of the elements of Islamic architecture.

The discussion will include courtyards, gardens and fountains, generally believed to reflect images of paradise; domes, arches, ceilings, decorated so intricately with arabesque and geometric designs; as well as epigraphic inscriptions found not only in mosques but also everyday buildings in traditional Islamic architectural design.



Many Different Kinds of Love

Michael Rosen

On Demand, Free

Available from 4 July 2021

In March 2020, acclaimed British children's author and poet, Michael Rosen, fell ill with COVID-19. What followed was months on a medical ward as the celebrated Children's Laureate was placed into an induced coma before enduring weeks of recovery as the NHS worked tirelessly to save his life.

While Rosen convalesced, his nurses kept a diary by his bed, writing him regular letters of hope and support. Fortunately his condition improved and as soon as he was able, he started writing his own story featuring new works of prose, the daily Coronavirus diaries provided by NHS staff and glorious new images from illustrator Chris Riddell.

A tribute to the power of community, the unshakable spirit of caregivers and the critical importance of our health service, Rosen joins us to recall a story of love and life that we'll all be able to relate to following an incredibly difficult year.



America After George Floyd: Attorney General Keith Ellison's Fight For Racial Justice

Keith Ellison, Muddassar Ahmed

On Demand, Free

Available from 4 July

Almost a year on from his killing of George Floyd, the Minnesota Fourth Judicial District Court found police officer Derek Chauvin guilty on three charges. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison – the first Muslim to be elected to Congress, the first African-American to serve as representative from Minnesota, and the first as that state's Attorney General – is the man who led the team to achieve this historic verdict.

Join us to hear of Ellison's fight for racial justice and a fairer society as he sits in conversation with Muddassar Ahmed, President of the Concordia Forum. UK Shadow Foreign Secretary Lisa Nandy MP will make opening remarks at the event, with interjections also coming from Nina Smith, Alex Johnson, Naz Shah MP, Sam Tarry MP, Councillor Mariam Dawood and Saqib Qureshi.



The Zaytuna Curriculum Series: An Introduction to Islamic Theology

Shaykh Hamza Yusuf Hanson, Faraz A Khan

On Demand, Free

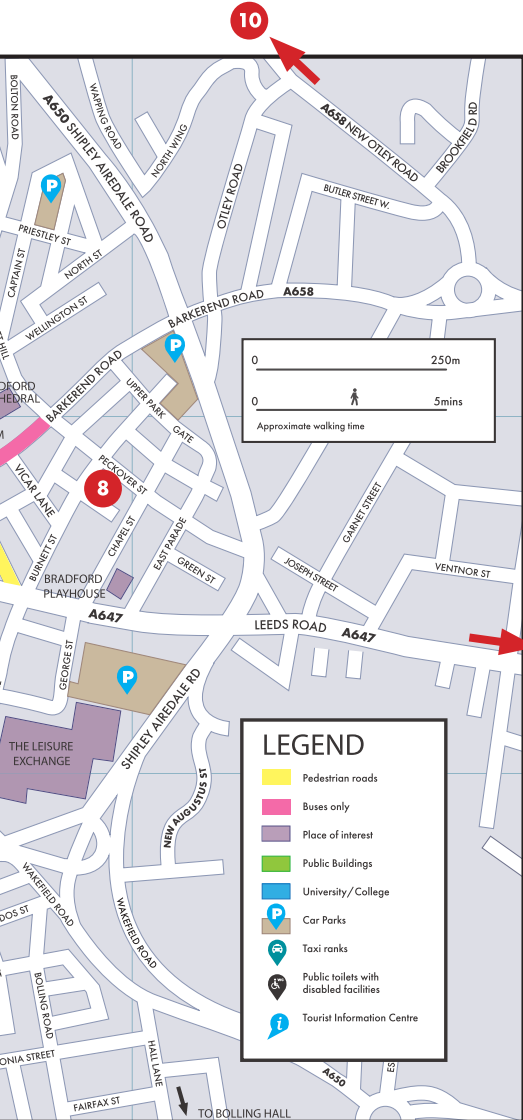
Available from 4 July 2021

Join Shaykh Hamza Yusuf Hanson as he discusses the Zaytuna Curriculum Series and its latest addition *An Introduction to Islamic Theology: Imam Nūr al-Dīn al-Šābūnī's Al-Bidāyah fī uṣūl al-dīn*, a book that explains the central tenets of Islamic creed and provides a rare rendering into the English language of the enduring relevance of the Islamic theology (kalam) commentary tradition.

The Zaytuna Curriculum Series is a natural outgrowth of Zaytuna College, the first accredited Muslim liberal arts college in the United States, where Shaykh Hamza currently serves as President. The curriculum series is a project that cultivates a welcoming and curious intellectual climate by publishing texts, commentaries, and new works from the Islamic tradition, as well as from other traditions to educate students in both the Islamic and Western liberal arts traditions.

Bradford
city centre



**1. Aagrah Midpoint**

Midpoint Thornbury, Bradford,
West Yorkshire, BD3 7AY

**2. Bradford City Hall
Banqueting Suite
& Council Chamber**

Centenary Square, Bradford,
West Yorkshire, BD1 1HY

3. Bradford Reform Synagogue

7a Bowland Street, Bradford,
BD1 3BW

4. Brontë Bell Chapel

294 Thornton Road, Thornton,
West Yorkshire, BD13 3AB

5. Kala Sangam

St Peter's House, 1 Forster Ct,
Bradford BD1 4TY

**6. Midland Hotel
French Ballroom
& Princes Ballroom**

Forster Square, Bradford, BD1 4HU

7. St George's Hall

34 Peckover Street, Bradford,
BD1 5BD

8. The Digital Exchange

Midpoint Thornbury, Bradford,
West Yorkshire, BD3 7AY

9. The Studio - Alhambra

Morley Street, Bradford,
West Yorkshire, BD7 1AJ

10. Undercliffe Cemetery

Undercliffe Lane, Bradford,
BD3 0QD




11. Waterstones

The Wool Exchange, Hustlergate,
Bradford, BD1 1BL

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