

26 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER 2024

POETRY FESTIVAL

INSPIRE POETRY FESTIVAL 2024
A WEEK OF WONDERFUL WORDS
WORKSHOPS, PERFORMANCE, FILM, EXHIBITION, MUSIC



Nottinghamshire
County Council

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WELCOME TO INSPIRE POETRY FESTIVAL 2024

JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF WONDERFUL WORDS!

This year we are delighted to be welcoming the acclaimed poet and broadcaster Daljit Nagra for our headline event at West Bridgford Library. He'll be sharing his 'desert island poems' in conversation with the Library Director of Bromley House Library, Clare Brown, before reading from his own work, for what promises to be a wonderful evening of poetry.

Sutton-in-Ashfield Library is the venue for a fun event which sees poet Leanne Moden and friends scribing bespoke poems for visitors while they wait. Leanne will also be leading a workshop on reading and writing poetry at Mansfield Central Library.

We'll once again be joined by Writing East Midlands' groundbreaking Beyond the Spectrum project which this year brings us a special taster workshop at Beeston Library for neurodivergent people.

Join poet and director/editor of Nine Arches Press Jane Commane at West Bridgford Library for a workshop which aims to demystify the process of sending your poems out into the world. And Andrew Graves leads a workshop at Stapleford Library where participants will be encouraged to use resources from the library's local heritage collection to inspire their poetry.

Five Leaves joins us at West Bridgford Library for the launch of the ninth and tenth pamphlets in the Five Leaves New Poetry series, and our library-based poetry collective invite us to a showcase of their work at Beeston Library.

POETRY FESTIVAL

Join us for an evening of poetry and jazz with The David 'Stickman' Higgins ensemble at Worksop Library, and enjoy a screening of A Quiet Passion about the life of American poet Emily Dickinson at Southwell Library.

Children from invited schools in Mansfield are set to be inspired by a performance from former Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho. There's also the chance to see the Expression exhibition at Mansfield Central Library.

And look out for poetry activities at other libraries – do check at your local library and on their Facebook pages for details about what's happening near you.

We look forward to seeing you for a wonderful week of words.

"Poetry is a life-cherishing force. For poems are not words, after all, but fires for the cold, ropes let down to the lost, something as necessary as bread in the pockets of the hungry."

Mary Oliver from *A Poetry Handbook*

BOOKING

Tickets for events can be booked:
Online: www.inspireculture.org.uk/poetry-festival

By phone via Ask Inspire: 01623 677 200
Or in person at any of the Inspire libraries.




Tickets are non-refundable except where an event is cancelled. Changes to the programme will be advertised online.

Access information

All our festival venues are accessible to wheelchair users, and full access details on all venues is available on request from Ask Inspire. Please notify us on booking if you require a wheelchair space or have any specific access needs.

Email: ask@inspireculture.org.uk
 Phone: **01623 677 200**

A large print version of this brochure is available on request.

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 #inspirepofest



[inspireculture.org.uk/](http://inspireculture.org.uk/poetry-festival)
poetry-festival



EXHIBITION

EXPRESSION

Thursday 26 September –

Thursday 31 October

MANSFIELD CENTRAL LIBRARY

FREE

Poet Mark Grist and Artist Amanda Rigby worked with groups of primary aged children this summer to make explosive artwork and poems that celebrate the wide range of emotions we feel every day as human beings. Through playful use of metaphor, personification and a little imagination, they collaborated with children from Nottinghamshire schools to create this expressive exhibition, inspired by the Summer Reading Challenge 2024, Marvellous Makers.

Find out about Amanda and Mark's summer of family workshop fun, and other Expression showings at inspireculture.org.uk/expression



help young writers to find their voice, he also loves collaborating with other artists and finding new spaces for poetry.



About Mark Grist

Mark Grist is an award-winning spoken word poet and children's author based in Peterborough with lots of experience working with children all over the world. Every year Mark visits over 60 schools around the world and loves to

About Amanda Rigby

Amanda Rigby is an artist and creative illustrator whose work explores bodies and the natural world, using elements found in nature to create monsters and living plants. She co-founded Paper Rhino, a workers' co-op, so that she and

other creatives could use their skills to promote ethical ways of working. She lectures in Digital Art and loves to perform live at street art events and drawing competitions.



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



Photo credit: Travis Elborough

HEADLINE EVENT

DESERT ISLAND
POEMSDALJIT NAGRA
IN CONVERSATION
WITH CLARE BROWN

6.30pm, Thursday 26 September

WEST BRIDGFORD LIBRARY

£10 | Booking advised

Adult event (16+)

Join us at West Bridgford Library for a wonderful evening of poetry, as acclaimed poet and BBC radio presenter Daljit Nagra MBE shares his desert island poems in conversation with the Library Director of Bromley House Library Clare Brown, before reading from his own award-winning work.

About Daljit Nagra

Daljit Nagra has a Sikh-Indian heritage and was born and grew up in West London then Sheffield. He is Chair of the Royal Society of Literature, is on the Council of The Society of Authors, is Adviser to Poetry By Heart, and is Professor of English and Creative Writing at Brunel University where he teaches. He has published four poetry collections, all with Faber and Faber, including *Look, We Have Coming to Dover!* which is one of Faber and Faber's iconic books of the past 90 years. He has won the Forward Prize for Best Individual Poem and Best First Book, the South Bank Show Decibel Award, the Cholmondeley Award, and the Royal Society of Arts Travelling Scholarship. His books have been nominated for the Costa Prize and twice for the TS Eliot Prize. He has been selected as a New Generation Poet by the Poetry Book Society.

As the inaugural Poet-in-Residence for Radio 4 and 4 Extra, he presents the weekly programme, Poetry Extra, on Radio 4 Extra. He has judged many prizes including The Samuel Johnson Prize, The TS Eliot Prize, The Costa Prize, and the David Cohen Prize. His poems have been published in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry Chicago*, *The LRB*, *The TLS* and *The New Statesman*. He has written for *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times* and *The Times of India*. His poems are set texts at GCSE and A Level. He is an honorary fellow at Homerton College, University of Cambridge, and at Queen Mary University of London. He is a member of the European Alliance of Academies.

daljitnagra.com**About Clare Brown**

Clare Brown's professional background is in arts management, initially working in theatre before becoming Director of the Poetry Book Society (PBS) in 1996. Running the PBS enabled her to develop her passion for reading poetry, started in childhood,

particularly when organising the annual TS Eliot Prize readings and award ceremony. She left the organisation and moved to Nottingham in 2003, at around the time Daljit Nagra won the first Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice Award. She has two novels published with Bloomsbury in the UK and one with Hachette in France, and freelanced for several years as a writer, consultant and workshop leader until joining Inspire Libraries' Culture team in 2016. She has been Library Director of Bromley House Library since September 2022.

bromleyhouse.org

"Daljit's poetry is an espresso shot of thought."

The Guardian

COMMUNITY EVENT

**POETRY BINGO!
HEXAMETER**

7.30pm, Thursday 26 September

SOUTHWELL LIBRARY

£4

Booking advised

Hexameter - a group of poets from Sheffield, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire who meet at Southwell Library - invite you for a fun evening of Poetry Bingo live at the library! Poems will be drawn 'live' on the night from a selection that includes work by local poets and well-known old favourites. Should a local poet be present, and their poem drawn, they'll be invited to perform it live, and audience members will be given chances to read well-loved favourites. Audience members booking before 7 September, will be given the opportunity to suggest poems for the 'lottery' when booking their ticket.

SPECIAL EVENT

**POEMS WHILE
YOU WAIT!**

10am - 2pm, Friday 27 September

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD LIBRARY

FREE

Just drop by

Join poet Leanne Moden and friends at Sutton-in-Ashfield Library for poems while you wait - written and personalised just for you! Whether you need a poem for a pal, or a ditty for your dad; a rhyme for your rabbit, or some doggerel for your dog, our poets have got you covered! Don't miss the chance to grab your free personalised poem. Written in 30 minutes - or your money back!

*Sutton in Ashfield Library's popular **Places of Welcome** session also takes place in the library on Friday mornings (10.30am - 12pm).*

**ABOUT PLACES
OF WELCOME**

Fridays, 10.30am - 12pm

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD LIBRARY

[inspireculture.org.uk/
places-of-welcome](http://inspireculture.org.uk/places-of-welcome)

These free weekly sessions at Sutton-in-Ashfield Library, hosted by volunteers, provide a social meeting place for those who may live alone or feel isolated, are new to the area or have little opportunity to meet other people in their neighbourhood. It's somewhere everyone is welcome. Part of the national Places of Welcome initiative, which helps to provide a network of community venues where anyone can go to find a friendly face for a cup of tea and a chat.

BEYOND THE SPECTRUM

WORKSHOP

BEYOND THE SPECTRUM POETRY TASTER SESSION FOR NEURODIVERGENT PEOPLE

11am – 1pm, Saturday 28 September

BEESTON LIBRARY

£3

Booking essential

For adults (16+)

At this workshop, aimed at neurodivergent adults, you will find out what makes Beyond the Spectrum so special. You'll work with an autistic professional writer in a group of like-minded people, to create and perfect a poem to reflect your own experience.

Best of all, it'll be fun!

About Beyond the Spectrum

Who says autistic people can't be creative? Since when do people with ADHD struggle to write? Writing East Midlands' Beyond the Spectrum has been disproving these misconceptions since 2021, through online workshops and live performances, building a community of supportive and highly creative writers in the process.

"I've enjoyed the chance to meet and chat with other autistic people who are interested in writing. I've loved being able to develop my skills with people who understand when I'm not able to present myself as neurotypical."

Beyond the Spectrum workshop participant

writingeastmidlands.co.uk



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WORKSHOP

TAKING YOUR POEMS OUT INTO THE WORLD WITH JANE COMMANE

1.15 – 3.15pm, Sunday 29 September

WEST BRIDGFORD LIBRARY

£8

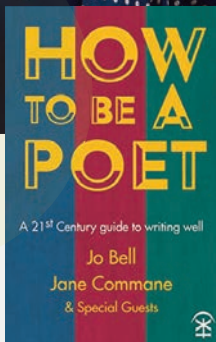
Booking essential

For adults (16+)

Want to get your poetry published, but not sure where to start? Keen to learn how to refine, reshape and edit your poems? This workshop is aimed at helping demystify the process of sending your poems out into the world, and giving you the skills and confidence to make your poems every bit as good as they can be. Learn about what editors look for in the poems they select, and how you can improve and refresh your writing to make it stand out from the crowd.

About Jane Commane

Jane Commane is director/editor at Nine Arches Press, co-editor of Under the Radar magazine and co-author of *How to Be a Poet*. Her debut poetry collection, *Assembly Lines* (Bloodaxe, 2018) was longlisted for the 2019 Michael Murphy Memorial Prize. Her poetry has featured in *Staying Human* (Bloodaxe) and in The Guardian. She is a Writing West Midlands' Room 204 writer, and in 2017 was awarded a Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowship.

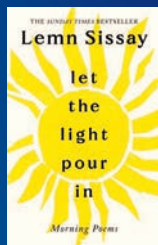


Festival 15

Look out for the Festival Fifteen – our carefully curated list of titles published that are available for you to borrow from Inspire Libraries. You're sure to find something to whet your appetite in our collection of new, contemporary and prize-winning poets, alongside some old favourites.



Take a look at our Festival Fifteen at
inspireculture.org.uk/festivalfifteen



WORKSHOP

POETING THE PAST: USING LOCAL HERITAGE COLLECTIONS AS INSPIRATION FOR NEW POETRY

11am – 1pm, Monday 30 September

STAPLEFORD LIBRARY

£5

Booking essential

Join Notts poet Andrew Graves for this relaxed workshop where you'll be encouraged to use resources from the library's local heritage collection to inspire your poetry. You'll be introduced to resources from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries, focusing on work and local industries in Stapleford, and be supported to write new poetry in response. With Andrew's guidance, you'll craft new poetry that breathes life into the rich history of Stapleford.

About Andrew Graves

Andrew Graves has appeared on TV and radio, including BBC Radio 6 Music's Cerys Mathews Show, BBC Inside Out and the documentary *Evidently John Cooper Clarke*. His third collection *Not Dancing with Ingrid Pitt* was published by Burning Eye Books in 2021. He has performed with the likes of Sleaford Mods, John Hegley and Henry Normal and has been commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery, BBC Radio 4, Edinburgh International Literature Festival and National Poetry Day.

Photo credit: Neil Pledger



Remembering

Julie Gardner



Kindling

Julie Burke



PERFORMANCE

FIVE LEAVES NEW POETRY LAUNCH: JULIE GARDNER AND JULIE BURKE

6.30pm, Monday 30 September

WEST BRIDGFORD LIBRARY

£4

Booking advised

For adults (16+)

Please join us for the launch of the ninth and tenth pamphlets in the Five Leaves New Poetry series.

Julie Gardner is an ex-primary school teacher who enrolled on a Creative Writing MA when she retired and liked it so much she's now studying for a PhD. She will read from her collection of poems about human connections, written for her granddaughters in the hope that they will read them and know she loved and was loved. The collection includes a series of poems about her half-sister who she has never met, and her husband who died several years ago.

Julie Burke worked as an au pair, toy maker, library assistant, biscuit inspector, sandwich vendor and balloon-shopkeeper before at last returning to her native Nottingham. Her poems have appeared in many magazines, as well as in anthologies, exhibitions, websites, a podcast - even on a building. The poems in her pamphlet *Kindling* flicker with the people, places and all those little things that spark stories from the embers of unreliable memory.

Julie and Julie will be joined by other poets published in the Five Leaves New Poetry series.

fiveleaves.co.uk

 **Five Leaves
Publications**

EVENT FOR SCHOOLS

Tuesday 1 October
MANSFIELD CENTRAL LIBRARY
Joseph Coelho

**FULLY
BOOKED**

Former Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho is on a mission: to make poetry accessible to everyone! Pupils from local Mansfield schools will join Joseph as he entertains and inspires them to want to write their own poetry. Children (and their teachers) will have fun guessing poetic riddles, powering up their poetry skills and discovering just how easy it is to write their own poems.

About Joseph Coelho

Joseph Coelho is an award-winning children's author, performance poet and playwright. He was the Waterstones Children's Laureate, 2022-2024. In 2024 he was awarded an OBE for his services to the arts, children's reading and literature. His novel *The Boy Lost in the Maze* (Otter-Barry Books) won the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing.

As part of his laureateship Joe completed a library marathon around the country joining 213 libraries.

His work has poetry and performance at its heart, drawing on over 20 years' experience running dynamic creative literacy sessions. He aims to inspire young people through stories and characters they can recognise.

thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com

For more details contact
culture@inspireculture.org.uk



PERFORMANCE

THE PAPER CRANE POETS SHOWCASE

7.30pm, Tuesday 1 October

BEESTON LIBRARY

FREE*

Booking advised

For adults (16+)

Join Beeston Library's resident poetry collective for a fantastic evening of original spoken word at Beeston Library. With performances that combine humour, social commentary, beauty and truth, this performance features a range of exciting local poets with something to say!

*Tickets to this showcase are free. Paper Crane Poets will hold a Pay What You Like collection after the event.

About Paper Cranes

Paper Crane Poets is a local poetry collective, based at Beeston Library in Nottingham. It's a space for writers of all stripes and abilities to create and connect, and stretch their poetry skills at events and festivals. leannemoden.com/paper-crane-poets

PERFORMANCE

JAZZ STEPS LIVE AT THE
LIBRARIES PRESENTS:THE DAVID
'STICKMAN' HIGGINS
ENSEMBLE – JAZZ
AND POETRY

7.30pm, Tuesday 1 October

WORKSOP LIBRARY

£13

Booking advised

For adults (ages 16+)

Don't miss this special event that fuses spoken word with live jazz. Jazz poet David 'Stickman' Higgins interweaves poetry with live music from his jazz-funk, fusion ensemble. Expect poetry – alongside funky jazz – that explores roots and belonging, drawing on his life experience and British Caribbean heritage. Our jazz 'festival special' featuring a fusion of jazz and poetry is a real treat, not to be missed.

*David Stickman Higgins - vocals and percussion,
Andy Metcalfe - guitar, Karl Bingham - bass,
Barry Lee - keyboards, Simon Potts - drum kit*

JAZZ
STEPS

Presented by Jazz Steps in partnership with Inspire.



About David 'Stickman' Higgins

Jazz and improvisation are formative and enduring imperatives for Dave 'Stickman' Higgins, whose artistic expressions embrace poetry, percussion and performance. His poetry themes draw on his heritage - mum from Barbados, dad from Bury (Lancs), his life influences, healing and community.

Dave is a jazz poet, using his innate sense of rhythm and pulse, and love of syncopation and improvisation that add to the elements of surprise in both jazz and poetry. In the late 1980s, he toured internationally as the drummer with Kalima, a band promoted by Manchester's famous Factory Records and part of the acid jazz scene in London at the time.

Family tragedy, linked to a racial injustice, was an epiphany for Dave, who promptly dropped his career in construction. He embarked on a truth-seeking, compulsively creative artistic venture – and has never stopped. He's contributed to numerous poetry anthologies and works extensively in education contexts where he's created stimulating poetry resources.



EXHIBITION

BEYOND THE
BASELINE

Wednesday 11 September until

Thursday 3 October

WORKSOP LIBRARY

FREE

David Stickman Higgins Ensemble – Jazz & Poetry complements the Beyond the Baseline exhibition on show at Worksop library. Celebrating Black British music, the exhibition shines a spotlight on different voices and perspectives to celebrate Black British music as a form of entertainment and vehicle for community, as well as a source of liberation, protest and education.

This is a taster of the full Beyond the Baseline exhibition shown at the British Library in London.

inspireculture.org.uk/LKN



WORKSHOP
READING AND
WRITING POETRY
WITH LEANNE MODEN

10am - 12pm, Wednesday 2 October

MANSFIELD CENTRAL LIBRARY

£4

Booking essential

For adults (16+)

Writing poetry is a tricky business, but one of the best ways to learn is by reading and being inspired by the work of others! In this workshop, we'll read published poems, have a chat about them, and use them to write our own poetry. Great for anyone with an interest in reading or writing poetry, or anyone looking to try a fun new creative activity! Poet and workshop leader, Leanne Moden, will share some of her favourite poems, and show you new ways of writing, inspired by existing and published poetry.

About Leanne Moden

Leanne Moden is a poet, performer and educator, based in Nottingham. She's performed at events and festivals across the UK, and she was a semi-finalist at the BBC Edinburgh Fringe Slam in 2018. Leanne's second pamphlet of poetry *Get Over Yourself* was published in 2020, and she's currently working on producing scripts for theatre.

leannemoden.com



FILM SCREENING

A QUIET PASSION ^{12A}

2pm, Thursday 3 October

SOUTHWELL LIBRARY

£3

Booking advised

For adults

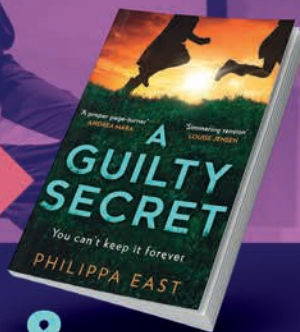
Join us on National Poetry Day at Southwell Library for a special film screening. *A Quiet Passion* tells the story of American poet Emily Dickinson from her early days as a young schoolgirl to her later years as a reclusive, unrecognised artist.

*"If I feel physically as if
 the top of my head were
 taken off, I know that is
 poetry."* **Emily Dickinson**

INSPIRE LIBRARIES & BEYOND

The Greatest Robot Ever

GUIDE
OUT NOW



WHAT'S ON ARTS & CULTURE

AUGUST – NOVEMBER 2024

Don't miss an exciting season
of author events, films and
live music in Inspire Libraries!

Join us for engaging talks with Sara
Nisha Adams, Philippa East, and Victoria
Smith, with lively jazz performances
and more through to the end of Autumn.

FIND OUT ABOUT OUR EVENTS:

Guide: Pick up a copy in your local library
Visit: inspireculture.org.uk/whatson
Email: ask@inspireculture.org.uk
Phone: 01623 677 200

INSPIRE POETRY FESTIVAL 2024 AT A GLANCE

Online booking advised: inspireculture.org.uk/poetry-festival

End times are approximate

For details of the libraries visit

www.inspireculture.org.uk/libraries



Date	Event	Type	Location	£	page
Thurs 26 Sep - Thurs 31 Oct	Expression	Exhibition	Mansfield Central Library	FREE	4
Thurs 26 Sep, 6.30pm	Desert Island Poems with Daljit Nagra	Performance	West Bridgford Library	£10	5
Thurs 26 Sep, 7.30pm	Hexameter Poetry Bingo!	Community event	Southwell Library	£4	6
Fri 27 Sep, 10am - 2pm	Poems While You Wait!	Special event	Sutton-in-Ashfield Library	FREE	6
Sat 28 Sep, 11am - 1pm	Beyond the Spectrum	Workshop	Beeston Library	£3	7
Sun 29 Sep, 1.15 - 3.15pm	Taking Your Poems Out into the World with Jane Commane	Workshop	West Bridgford Library	£8	8
Mon 30 Sep, 11am - 1pm	Poeting the Past with Andrew Graves	Workshop	Stapleford Library	£5	9
Mon 30 Sep, 6.30pm	Five Leaves New Poetry Launch	Performance	West Bridgford Library	£4	10
Tues 1 Oct, 7.30pm	Paper Crane Poets Showcase	Performance	Beeston Library	Pay what you like	12
Tues 1 Oct, 7.30pm	The David 'Stickman' Higgins Ensemble	Performance	Workshop Library	£13	13
Wed 2 Oct, 10am - 12pm	Reading and Writing Poetry with Leanne Moden	Workshop	Mansfield Central Library	£4	14
Thurs 3 Oct, 2pm	A Quiet Passion	Film screening	Southwell Library	£3	14