



Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL

# PORTSMOUTH BOOK FEST 2022

21 FEBRUARY – 13 MARCH

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**THE HAYLING ISLAND  
BOOKSHOP**



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[www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

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# WELCOME TO THE 2022 PORTSMOUTH BOOKFEST

**We're delighted to be back, and look forward to seeing you at our exciting line up of talks, interviews, workshops and activities for all ages.**

While many events will return in-person, hosting the festival online last year did show that some of you prefer digital events so we'll continue to offer events on Zoom.

At in-person author events you'll have the chance to buy a book and get it signed by the author with book sales supported by the authors themselves or our partner bookseller, independent bookshop The Hayling Island Bookshop.

Please book your tickets in advance. Unless stated otherwise, all tickets for the festival go on sale on Monday 10 January 2022 at

**[librariesandarchives.portsmouth.gov.uk](https://librariesandarchives.portsmouth.gov.uk)**

BookFest reserves the right to move events online if required. Tickets are non-refundable unless BookFest cancels the event: ticket holders will be offered a full refund in these circumstances.



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## Monday 21 February

**Time:** 11am

**Location:** Southsea Library

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

### Storytime (Suitable for ages 5 – 7)

This session is for young children who like stories and want to know how they are created. *The Plastic Warrior* will be read by the author Shelagh Moore. Children will learn about what inspired Shelagh and see the original illustrations by Gary Wing.

Participants will make up a character who wants to help bees and insects to get their food and then place the character into a story. A simple information sheet about pollinators will be available for the children to take home with them.

Shelagh has a background in education writing and writing children's stories. Shelagh is developing a story about pollinators in the same series. *Southsea's Secret Gardeners* is a story based in Southsea.

Visit [www.shelaghmoorebooks.co.uk](http://www.shelaghmoorebooks.co.uk)

## Monday 21 February

**Time:** 1.30pm

**Location:** Southsea Library

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

### Writing Workshop (Suitable for ages 9 – 11)

If you want to hear about different ways of creating a story this workshop is for you! Making up characters for a story you want to tell, having a story you want to tell and working out how to start it are all part of the writing process. Bring along a picture you think might make a good illustration for a story.

Participants will have fun making up a story. Have you ever written a poem or story with a collage background? You can try that if you like, there are all sorts of ways to tell a story!

Shelagh is an author with a background in writing education resources and children's stories. Participants will look at some of the stories she has written and the illustrations drawn by Gary Wing.

Visit [www.shelaghmoorebooks.co.uk](http://www.shelaghmoorebooks.co.uk)

## Monday 21 February

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Zoom

**Cost:** £4

### **The return of the Deadly Dames: Forgotten female detectives**

For the past ten years, the Deadly Dames have been a panel of five crime fiction authors who, along with guest Dames and Chevaliers, have provided lively, humorous but insightful discussions into many aspects of their genre. Sadly, in the last few years, through death or frail health, three of the Dames have left us. Undaunted, the remaining Dames, Charlie Cochrane and Carol Westron, have arranged to be part of BookFest with a new Zoom panel and have invited two guest Dames to join them to discuss Forgotten Female Detectives. The talk promises to be wide-ranging and will include a prim ex-governess with a passion for quoting Lord Tennyson, a lip-reading detective, and a sharp-tongued, soft-hearted, American whose attempts to thwart villains results in some ludicrous and dangerous situations.

## Speakers:



Carol Westron is an expert on the Golden Age of Detective Fiction and the organiser of Mystery Fest. She is the author of several contemporary crime novels and a Victorian Murder Mystery all set in the south of England. Her most recent novel is a comedy/cosy crime story, *The Curse of the Concrete Griffin*.



Charlie Cochrane writes gay fiction, both mysteries and romance. Her three mystery series range from the Edwardian-era Cambridge Fellows series, the Alasdair and Toby mysteries set post-World War 2, and the contemporary Lindenshaw Mysteries. Charlie's most recent Cambridge Fellows novella is *Lessons in Keeping a Dangerous Promise*.



M.K. Graff is an award-winning American author who loves Britain, which is the setting for her series featuring Nora Tierney, an American children's book author now living in England. In contrast, Marni's other series features Trudy Genova, a New York nurse who works as medical advisor for a film studio; this concept is based on Marni's own nursing job when based in New York and was suggested by her mentor, P.D. James. The most recently published Nora Tierney novel is *The Evening's Amethyst*.



J.L. Merrow writes contemporary gay romance and mysteries, and is frequently accused of humour. Two of her novels have won Rainbow Awards for Romantic Comedy (*Slam!*, 2013 and *Spun!*, 2017) and several of her books have been EPIC Awards finalists, including *Relief Valve (Plumber's Mate Mystery 2.)*



**Monday 21 February, Monday 28  
February and Monday 7 March**

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library and  
Hunter Gatherer, Albert Road

**Cost:** £30

**Speak up: A course of three workshops on  
writing, performance and finding your voice**

**Workshop One**

21 February 2022 7pm – 8.30pm, 3rd Floor,  
Portsmouth Central Library

**Workshop Two**

28 February 2022 7pm – 8.30pm, 3rd Floor,  
Portsmouth Central Library

**Performance Event**

7 March 2022 7pm – 9pm, Hunter Gatherer,  
249 Albert Rd, PO3 OJR

Please book in advance as places are limited to 10 people.

This course is aimed at short story writers who would like to improve their confidence when writing for performance or simply reading to an audience.

**Workshop one** will give tips and tricks on engaging the audience and preparing work for performance.

**Workshop two** will be fine tuning and rehearsal for the performance event.



**Performance event:** the group will invite family and friends to the Southsea café, The Hunter Gatherer, for a fun evening to perform their finished pieces. Refreshments and bar available.

**Course providers:**

Christine Lawrence – writer, actor and member of Titchfield Festival Theatre.

Jackie Green – writer and spoken word performer.

All participants will be encouraged to invite up to two guests to the final performance event at Hunter Gatherer.



Photo by Zo Razafindramamba on Unsplash

**Tuesday 22 February to  
Friday 25 February**

**Time:** Various locations

**Location:** Various locations

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

**Octopus Medicine – Young People's  
Creative Writing Workshops**

Suitable for young people aged 10 – 14.

Ever wondered how a cuttlefish talks? Or how a hermit crab finds a home? Ever wanted to know more about the ocean that surrounds our island? Join poet Becci Louise on a creative adventure and explore the wonders of the ocean.

Learn about the creatures that inhabit the seas surrounding Portsmouth and find out what you can do to protect them. With poetry writing, art-making and exploration, these workshops are perfect for creative souls and budding environmentalists.

Becci Louise is a poet, performer educator, and author of *Octopus Medicine*, poem-stories for young and old alike. She will captivate you with her verse-stories of an octopus who dreams of stars (and gets caught by a fisherman!). Let the magic of the watery worlds she conjures inspire you to create your own poems and stories.

Please book in advance as places are limited to maximum of 15 young people.

Visit [www.rebeccaearnleywrites.co.uk](http://www.rebeccaearnleywrites.co.uk)

### **What should I bring?**

We will provide everything you need.

### **When and where:**

#### **Tuesday 22 February:**

- 10am Southsea Library, Palmerston Road, Southsea, PO5 3QQ
- 2pm Alderman Lacey Library, Tangier Road, Copnor, PO3 6HU

#### **Wednesday 23 February:**

- 10am North End Library, Gladys Avenue, Northend, PO2 9AX
- 2pm Carnegie Library, Fratton Road, Fratton, PO1 5EZ

#### **Thursday 24 February:**

- 10am Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX
- 2pm Portsea Library, Queen Street, Portsmouth, PO1 3HN

## Friday 25 February:

- 10am Cosham Library, Spur Road, Cosham, PO6 3EB
- 2pm Paulsgrove Library, Marsden Road, Portsmouth, PO6 4JB

Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

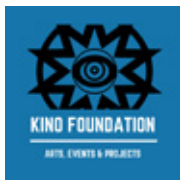


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BLURRING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN REALITY AND THE IMAGINATION



## Tuesday 22 February

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Zoom

**Cost:** £4

### **Christopher Somerville: The View from the Hill**



'In my workroom is a case of shelves that holds 450 notebooks. Their pages are creased and stained with mud, blood, flattened insect corpses, beer glass rings, smears of plant juice and gallons of sweat. Everything I've written about walking the British countryside has had its origin among these little black-and-red books.'

During the enforced idleness of the Covid-19 pandemic, when I couldn't travel anywhere to research more walks, I revisited these 450 notebooks. *The View from the Hill* pulls together the best from their pages, following the cycle of the seasons from a freezing January to a Christmas sunrise. In between are hundreds of walks that take in magnificent flora and fauna, ancient traditions and folklore, geological peculiarities and wonders, and lots of humour.'

There's no need to travel far if you'd like to go walking in Christopher's company. Just come along to his talk and let yourself be spirited away.



**Tuesday 22 February to Wednesday 9 March**

**Time:** Various (see below)

**Location:** Various (see below)

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

## **Wave Makers – writing for the screen**

Suitable for ages 18+.

*Ever thought "I have an idea for a movie" or wondered how screenwriters craft their story ideas?*

The Wave Makers Writing for the Screen workshop will take you on a dive into character, explore how it drives story, and teach you how to create rich and meaningful characters who connect with an audience.

No experience required, you don't need to have written before, you don't need to think of yourself as a writer. All you need is a willingness to have a go and an aspiration to be creative with words.

You will be welcomed on board by experienced local author and screenwriter Matt Wingett who will get you creating in this practical writing workshop.

Please book in advance as places are limited.

### **What you need to bring:**

Pen/pencil, notebook, an open mind.

### **When and where:**

- Tuesday 22 February 11am – Paulsgrove Library, Marsden Road, Portsmouth, PO6 4JB
- Tuesday 22 February 3pm – Cosham Library IT Suite, Spur Road, Cosham, PO6 3EB
- Wednesday 23 February 7pm – Southsea Library, Palmerston Road, Southsea, PO5 3QQ
- Thursday 24 February 2pm – Carnegie Library IT Suite, Fratton Road, Fratton, PO1 5EZ
- Thursday 24 February 6.30pm – North End Library, Gladys Avenue, Northend, PO2 9AX
- Wednesday 2 March 2pm – Alderman Lacey Library, Tangier Road, Copnor, PO3 6HU
- Wednesday 2 March 6.30pm – Beddow Library, Milton Road, Milton, PO4 8PR
- Wednesday 9 March 11am – Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX
- Wednesday 9 March 3pm – Portsea Library, Queen Street, Portsmouth, PO1 3HN

A Wave Makers workshop series with the support of BFI Network, awarding funds from The National Lottery and supported by Making Waves Film Festival.

Visit [www.makingwavesfilmfestival.com](http://www.makingwavesfilmfestival.com)



## Wednesday 23 and Saturday 26 February

**Time:** 10.30am – 2pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery,  
Museum Road.

**Cost:** Free (no ticket required)

### Storytelling with Michael O'Leary

Join the marvellous storyteller Michael O'Leary as he wanders the galleries of Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery. Families will be able to sit with him as he tells whimsical and musical tales for everyone to enjoy. Just drop in at the museum between 10.30am and 2pm.

## Wednesday 23 February

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

### A funny thing happened while researching my novel

Drop in for a chat with local authors, Christine, Helen and Loree as they discuss how research shapes and flavours their writing. Through anecdotes and illustrations from their recent novels, they will explore the challenge of writing about 'near history' – a time vivid in memory but perceived through a contemporary lens. Aimed at readers and writers alike, the session promises to entertain, inform and intrigue those interested in the lengths writers go to to create a sense of authenticity.



Christine Lawrence is known locally for writing and performing at spoken word events, for facilitating writing workshops, and for founding the spoken word group T'Articulation. Her third novel, *Don't Step on the Cracks*, is a psychological thriller set in Fareham's homeless community, and draws upon real-life experiences.

Helen Salsbury's debut novel *Sometimes When I Sleep* is a contemporary coming of age novel, influenced by late 18th Century Gothic literature. Helen is a short story writer, spoken word performer and community journalist, who has been longlisted for the Mslexia novel competition and shortlisted for the Impress Prize for New Writers. Visit [www.helensalsbury.com](http://www.helensalsbury.com)



Loree Westron's debut novel *Missing Words* is set in Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, and was published last year by Fairlight Moderns. She previously taught Creative Writing at Portsmouth and Chichester universities, and currently leads the Portsmouth Writers' Workshop.



**Thursday 24 February**

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** £5

**Julia Margaret Cameron, photographer:  
a talk by Kirsty Stonell – Walker**

Julia Margaret Cameron (1815 – 1879) received her first camera as a gift when she was forty-eight but her love affair with the medium had already spanned several decades and continents.

An enthusiast for this newly-invented device, she travelled the world befriending experts who taught her the magic and the science of the lens such as the astronomer John Herschel, and pioneering photographers like her brother-in-law the Earl Somers and the Swedish risk-taking artist Oscar Rejlander.

Through her brief career as a professional photographer, Cameron broke boundaries with her new medium and created art works that still electrify and dazzle today. Come and find out more about this pioneering photographer with art historian Kirsty Stonell – Walker, author of *Pre – Raphaelite Girl Gang* (Unicorn Publishing 2018) and *Light and Love* (Unicorn Publishing 2020).

## Friday 25 February

**Time:** 11am – 11.45am

**Location:** Southsea Library

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

### Pebble people and the mystery spaceship with Alan Smith

Join Alan Smith for this storytime all about the pebble people on Southsea beach! The story is suitable for ages 6 – 8 years but some younger and older children may enjoy it too.

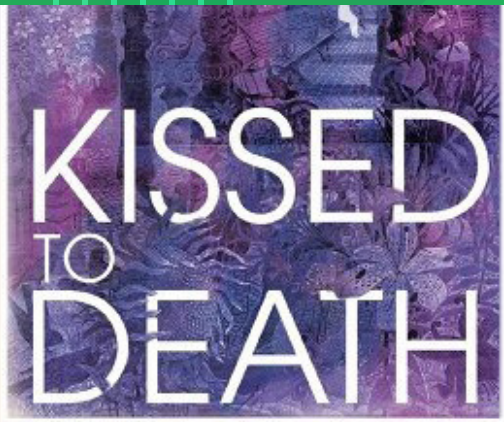
Alan Smith is a Southsea artist, illustrator, now author and ceramic artist.

In his life he has also been an advertising designer, a college lecturer in art and a craft therapist working with older people in care.

Alan has spent the last two years creating his new book which is inspired by Southsea and the pebble people characters are located on Southsea beach.







GILLIAN FERNANDEZ MORTON

## Friday 25 February

**Time:** 1pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

### Gillian Morton: Kissed to Death

*Five minutes is all it takes. Five minutes of violence in the wartime blackout. Five minutes that cast a very long shadow.*

After war ends, little Kenny lives with his granny who can't find words to explain where he has come from. He knows not to ask.

His friend Gemma only knows her daddy as a framed picture on her mother's dresser.

As the children grow up, they become aware of yawning gaps in their histories. They each meet a person offering shelter and warmth. But at what cost? What to do when a shelter becomes a cage? Who can dare to bite the hand that feeds?

At this event author Gillian Morton will talk about her second novel *Kissed to Death* and how it is inspired by the popular children's story *The Snow Queen* and her own mother's wartime experiences in Portsmouth.



## 500 Pompey words

**Deadline for entries:** Friday 25 February

**Winners announced:** w/c Monday 7 March

**Location:** Cumberland House Natural History Museum

**Cost:** Free (no booking required)

Are you aged 11 – 16 and living in Portsmouth?  
Do you love creative writing?

Pick an object in the A-Z gallery at Cumberland House Natural History Museum, write a 500-word story, poem or play about it and you could win £75 in gift vouchers! Our guest judge is author and illustrator Neal Layton.

Visit Cumberland House Natural History Museum:  
Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 5pm

Prizes awarded in memory of John and Ivy Guy – Hawthorne, supporters of Portsmouth's museum service for many years.

To find out more click on get involved at  
**[www.portsmouthmuseums.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthmuseums.co.uk)**



**Friday 25 February**

**Time:** 7pm

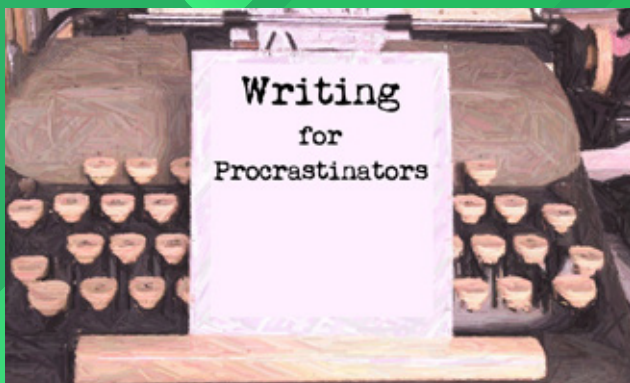
**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** £5

### **A life in Music journalism with Martin James**

Originally published in 1997, *State of Bass: The Origins of Jungle and Drum & Bass* explores the scene's roots through its social, cultural and musical antecedents. Drawing on interviews with some of the key figures in the early years, the book explores the sonic shifts and splinters of new variants, styles and subgenres as it charts the journey from the early days as the deliberately hidden underground to its position as a global phenomenon. The Velocity Press reissue extends the original text to include the award of the Mercury Prize to Roni Size & Reprazent and brings new perspectives to the story of the UK's most important subterranean urban energy.

*State of Bass* author Martin James has written several other books about urban and electronic music and culture including *French Connections: from discotheque to discovery*, an account of the emergence of the late 90s French Touch scene and *We Eat Rhythm*, the definitive biography of The Prodigy. Martin is now Professor of Creative and Cultural Industries at Solent University, Southampton where he lectures on underground music and the music industry. Martin James will be in conversation with Colin Steven of Velocity Press, the publisher of *State of Bass*.



**Saturday 5 March, Saturday 12 March,  
Saturday 19 March**

**Time:** Various (see below)

**Location:** Eldon Building, Winston Churchill Avenue  
or Zoom

**Cost:** £50 (whole course); £20 (concessions)

## **Writing for Procrastinators**

Workshops for uncertain writers in uncertain times.  
Turn your creative weaknesses into strengths.

Always wanted to write? Unsure how? Is your dream  
project permanently on hold? Try these friendly,  
informal workshops with novelist **William Sutton**.

Come and be coaxed into getting started with your  
project. Discover fresh approaches to crash through  
those blocks. Develop characters, settings, plots,  
endings. Get words on the page.

### **Feedback from sold-out Take Your Novel Further in Bookfest 2021:**

"Tutor was dynamic, knowledgeable, encouraging,  
empathetic".

"More than good value for money, it is informative,  
interesting and inspirational".

"10/10, excellent pace and differentiation, plus advice  
on plot, characters, structure, editing and more".

## Where and when:

In person: 10am – 11.30am, Saturday 5 March, Saturday 12 March, Saturday 19 March, at Room W 1.09, Eldon Building, University of Portsmouth, Winston Churchill Avenue, PO1 2DJ.

Parking: three hours free on-street on Eldon Road. Pay parking behind Eldon Building, off Eldon Road.

Please book your ticket for this course at [www.wegotickets.com/event/527848](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/527848)

Online Zoom: 12pm – 1.30pm, Saturday 5 March, Saturday 12 March, Saturday 19 March

Please book your ticket for this course at [www.wegotickets.com/event/527850](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/527850)



## Saturday 26 February

**Time:** 10am – 2pm

**Location:** Southsea Library

**Cost:** Free (no booking required, drop in)

### Poetry Corner with Tina MacNaughton

Poetry Corner is a space and opportunity for members of the public to bring along their own writing and share with poet and writer, Tina MacNaughton. Tina will be happy to hear or read your poem and discuss with you. Tina will offer help and constructive criticism if you want and is also happy just to share and enjoy your writing.

There will be some activities for children to encourage them to write their own poem.

Several of Tina's poems can be found on the Portsmouth Literary Map, a project set up by Portsmouth University to celebrate local writers. Tina has written two poetry books, *When the elves rescued Christmas* (WriteRhymes) and *On the Shoulders of Lions* (The Choir Press). Tina was born and brought up in Portsmouth and now divides her time living in her seaside flat in Southsea and Crowthorne, Berkshire where she practises as an acupuncturist.

Visit [www.writerhymespoetry.com](http://www.writerhymespoetry.com)



**Saturday 26 February**

**Time:** 2pm

**Location:** Southsea Library

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

### **Amanda Hubbert Storytime: Roho and Rafiki**

Join Amanda at this storytime session where she will be reading from her new picture book *Roho and Rafiki*. *Roho and Rafiki* is about two friends in a zoo that go exploring and learning about different animals.



## Saturday 26 February

**Time:** 10am – 5pm

**Location:** Room W1.08, Eldon Building, Winston Churchill Avenue, Portsmouth, PO1 2DJ

**Cost:** £25 standard ticket; £12.50 students, unwaged and carers (both tickets include a free copy of Octopus Medicine)

### Transmedia storytelling for writers with far too much imagination!

A practical, collaborative workshop for writers interested in exploring new and emerging forms of storytelling, facilitated by story consultant Alison Norrington. This writer's room experience will take you from idea to outline as your ideas come alive and you pour your imagination onto the page.

The workshop is the first step in a journey which will culminate with a large-scale immersive audio-visual arts installation in Portsmouth Cathedral in November 2022. We invite writers with too much imagination to bring their pens, notebooks, and creativity and pour it on to the page.

This collaborative, hands on, practical workshop will be facilitated by Story Consultant Alison Norrington who is an expert in transmedia storytelling.

Not too sure what transmedia is? Well don't worry all will become clear during the workshop as Alison guides you through the process of adapting and ideating for transmedia.



The starting point for the workshop will be a slim volume of poems by Becci Louise entitled *Octopus Medicine*. The three stories in the volume tell of an octopus who dreams of stars, a self-important fisherman who gets what's coming to him, and a misunderstood monster.

We challenge you to turn the ideas, themes, and characters in this series of watery adventures into an original outline for our new ACE funded project *Octopuses & other Sea Creatures*. One we can hand on to the actors, artists and creators who will bring your ideas to life as part of the We Shine – Portsmouth festival of light in November 2022.

Please book early as places are limited to maximum of 20 places.

Once you have booked your ticket BookFest will contact you to arrange a free copy of the book for you to collect from a library in advance of the event, or to have posted to you.

### **Who is this for:**

Anyone with an interest in creative writing and who would like to explore new and emerging story telling forms.

### **What do you need to bring:**

Pens/pencils, notebooks, an open mind.

Alison Norrington, Story Central.

Visit **[www.storycentral.com](http://www.storycentral.com)**

Purchase *Octopus Medicine* (Becci Louise 2017)

£8.99 from Two Rivers Press by visiting

**[www.tworiverspress.com/shop/octopus-medicine](http://www.tworiverspress.com/shop/octopus-medicine)**







## Monday 28 February

**Time:** 2.30pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

### Home and Away: Portsmouth as inspiration for exploring the world with Celia Clark

Celia and Historic Buildings Architect Deane Clark, inspired by living in Portsmouth for 50 years, explore cities, forts and dockyards in many parts of the world, photographing, writing books, articles and poetry.

In 1982 Celia was the first secretary of the Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Historical Society, founded to save documents, artefacts and equipment used by dockyard workers over the centuries. Her recordings of skilled dockyard tradespeople are in the Portsmouth History Centre and her lecture 'Drilling hammock Hooks for Sailors: women workers in Dockyards in WWI' was part of the Portsmouth Festival in 2014. The research on which it based was published in the Naval Dockyards Society's Transactions.

Celia's passion for Brutalist architecture inspired her book *The Tricorn. Life and Death of a Sixties Icon* which celebrates the bold, multi-layered and multi-use architectural icon built in Portsmouth from 1962 to 1966, demolished in 2004.

Her most recent book with Martin Marks OBE: *Barracks, Forts and Ramparts: Regeneration Challenges for Portsmouth Harbour's Defence Heritage* explores transformation to new civilian life in Gunwharf, Haslar Hospital, the Diving Museum, Royal Clarence Yard and the Naval Base Heritage Area.

Visit [www.celiacklark.co.uk](http://www.celiacklark.co.uk)



**Tuesday 1 March**

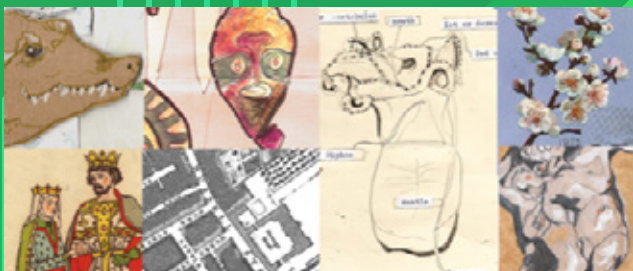
**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** £4

## **Writing a sparkling first page with Wendy Metcalfe**

Whether you're writing a novel or a short story, your first page must sparkle. This workshop will explore which elements need to be included on a first page – and which don't. The workshop will include a series of exercises, so bring pen and paper, and be prepared to write.



**Wednesday 2 March and Saturday 5 March**

**Time:** 10am – 12.30pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery –  
Activity Room, Museum Road

**Cost:** £5

**Zine Making Workshop with artist  
Kim Edith: Storytelling through  
Portsmouth Museums collection.**

Suitable for ages 16+.

Discover the exciting history behind a selection of objects from Portsmouth Museum and learn how to turn these facts into a narrative.

Portsmouth Museum have chosen three exciting objects (not usually on public display) from their collection for us to study. In the workshop you will use your powers of observation to explore one of the objects and discover the fascinating secrets of its past.

You will then make a mini zine (an A6 booklet) to explain this story, using drawing, writing or a mixture of both. Learn how to highlight key information, find human stories and explain the function of the object.

No artistic talent needed! All abilities welcome.

Please book at [hotwallsstudios.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.hotwallsstudios.eventbrite.co.uk)

Please book early as places are limited to maximum of 10 per session.

Kim Edith is an artist at the Hotwalls Studios, Old Portsmouth.

## Wednesday 2 March

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Zoom

**Cost:** £4

### From the horses' mouths – tips for aspiring and fledgling authors

Sometimes there are things you wish you'd known in your early writing days. How do you develop readership? What are the do's and don'ts of promo and networking? How does a Brit tackle the global market? We'll be looking at these and other important issues, in a panel that we promise will be both candid and amusing.



Charlie Cochrane often shocks folk by telling them she murders people – but it's only in the books she writes, so that doesn't count. Visit

**[www.charliecochrane.co.uk](http://www.charliecochrane.co.uk)**



When Brey Willows is not running a social enterprise working with marginalised communities on writing projects, she's editing other people's writing or doing her own. Visit **[www.breywillows.com](http://www.breywillows.com)**



Award winner Cari Hunter lives in the northwest of England with her wife, their cats, and a field full of sheep. She works full-time as a paramedic and dreams up stories in her spare time.

Visit **[carihunter.wordpress.com](http://carihunter.wordpress.com)**



Anna Larner is an English Literature and museum studies graduate, whose debut novel, *Highland Fling*, was a finalist in the 2018 Golden Crown Literary Society Awards. Visit **[www.annalarner.com](http://www.annalarner.com)**



Robyn Nyx lives in England but enjoys traveling all over the world in search of inspiration. She loves to create complex characters to weave into stories that remind us of the darker side of human nature in the hope that we might cultivate the light.

Visit [www.robynnyx.com](http://www.robynnyx.com)



## Thursday 3 March

**Time:** 7pm – 8.30 pm

**Location:** Zoom

**Cost:** £5 (£2 concession)

### How to edit your own writing with Editing Club

Drop in to observe a group of writers tackling this crucial part of the writing process.

Since last year's sold-out *Take Your Novel Further* in Bookfest 2021 and *Write Your Novel* in 2020, a group of writers local and far-flung have been meeting regularly online to edit their work, reshaping, pruning, prodding, developing early drafts towards publishable standard, in preparation for submitting to agents or publishers.

See how seriously writers take this process. Pick up specific tips on how to improve dialogue, layout, structure, character.

Feedback from participants:

"I've found the input on editing particularly useful because it gave objective criteria to cut through the sprawling first draft".

"Focused, generous feedback".

"I enjoyed interacting with the other participants. I've also benefitted from Will's infectious enthusiasm".

Novelist William Sutton moderates the session – though his word is not final – while a panoply of writers contribute their experience and creativity to this fascinating process.

Please book your ticket for this course at [www.wegotickets.com/event/527714](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/527714)



**Thursday 3 March**

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Zoom

**Cost:** £4

### **Mohsin Zaidi: A dutiful boy**

Mohsin Zaidi is an award-winning author, commentator and lawyer. His memoir, *A Dutiful Boy* (Penguin, 2020) was named Guardian, GQ and New Statesman Book of the Year; providing a personal insight into issues of diversity and inclusion, mental health and justice.

An advocate for LGBT rights, BAME representation and social mobility, Mohsin sits on the board of Stonewall and is listed by The Financial Times as a top future LGBT leader. A regular commentator on Sky News, he also writes for CNN Style, Bustle, Mr Porter and Newsweek and was recently listed in The Lawyer Magazine Hot 100.



## Friday 4 March

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Park Building, University of Portsmouth

**Cost:** £6

### David Lammy MP

BookFest is thrilled to welcome David Lammy MP for an evening in conversation about his life and his book *Tribes*.

Both memoir and call-to-arms, *Tribes* explores both the benign and malign effects of our need to belong. How this need – genetically programmed and socially acquired – can manifest itself in positive ways, collaboratively achieving great things that individuals alone cannot. And yet how, in recent years, globalisation and digitisation have led to new, more pernicious kinds of tribalism. This book is a fascinating and perceptive analysis of not only the way the world works but also the way we really are.



David Lammy was born in London to Guianese parents and has served as the MP for Tottenham since 2000. Before entering politics he practised as a barrister. He served as a minister under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown and his first book, *Out of the Ashes: Britain after the Riots*, was published to widespread acclaim in 2011. Today, David is one of Parliament's most prominent and successful campaigners for social justice.

"Blends memoir with shrewd analysis of the current political landscape . . . He interrogates subjects such as polarisation, tribalism and identity politics with aplomb, bringing in voices from opposing backgrounds and views...The most powerful parts of the book, though, are the explorations of his own compulsion to belong" —  
The Independent



## Friday 4 March

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

### What do literary scouts do?

What is a literary scout? Who do they work for and what job do they do for publishers and writers? How do they differ to literary agents? As a writer, will I ever need one?



Publicist Esther Harris of Bookcollective will interview literary scout Naomi Tongue from Tongue Literary Scouting to get the answers to all these questions and enable the audience to deepen their understanding of the publishing world. There will be plenty of opportunity for audience Q&A.

Visit **[www.bookcollective.com](http://www.bookcollective.com)**

Find @EnTongue on Twitter



## Saturday 5 March

**Time:** 1pm – 2.30pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** £20 (£10 Leisure Card holders – please show your Leisure Card with your ticket on arrival)

### **Pitch and Punt: How To Sell Your Work**

However brilliant your story, if it's not presented in a professional way, it may not progress past the first hurdle. In this intensive ninety-minute workshop, Lucy will explain the dos and don'ts of submitting your written work and pitching your ideas. Suitable for writers of both fiction and drama.

Lucy Flannery is an award-winning writer with credits in radio, theatre, film, TV, fiction and non-fiction, including *A Business Affair* [with Christopher Walken] *Like a Daughter* [with Alison Steadman] *The Story of Tracy Beaker*, *Lydia and George* and various magazines and anthologies.

Her radio sitcoms *Rent* and *Any Other Business* are regularly repeated on BBC Radio 4 Extra. A former Writer-in-Residence at the University of Plymouth, she teaches playwriting at Chichester Festival Theatre and is a member of the Writers' Guild Audio Committee. Lucy is also an RLF Consultant Fellow.

## Saturday 5 March

**Time:** 3pm – 5pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** £20 (£10 Leisure Card holders – please show your Leisure Card with your ticket on arrival)

### Tips from a Publisher

Veteran publisher, Scott Pack, shares many of the tips, nuggets of wisdom and trade secrets that can be found in his latest book, *Tips from a Publisher*. He'll take you through the questions he gets asked the most, the common mistakes that writers make, advice on how to survive the submissions process and what really happens behind the scenes of a publishing head office. There will also be plenty of time for attendees to pick Scott's brains about any aspect of writing or the book world. A must for any aspiring writers.

Scott Pack has worked in the book world across three decades, including spells as head of buying for Waterstones, publisher at HarperCollins, and as a consultant for a number of indie publishers. He is also a freelance editor working with emerging authors to help improve their manuscripts and submission packages. And when he has the time, he writes specialist subject questions for BBC's Mastermind.



## Saturday 5 March

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** £6 – ticket includes a tea/coffee

### Around the world in 10 books

Join writers Judith Robinson and Scott Pack as they travel the globe in search of great works of world literature. They will do their best to stop off at each continent where they will champion, discuss and recommend ten books, many of them in translation. A great way to discover authors and books that you may otherwise have missed. This is a regular festival favourite that comes with a warning: you will find it hard to leave without adding to your reading pile.



## Monday 7 March

**Time:** 7pm – 8pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** £4

### From Inspiration to Publication: how ideas develop into books

American short story writer and novelist Loree Westron and internationally published historical novelist Gabrielle Kimm trace the development of their novels, from the initial ideas that sparked their imaginations, through the process of research and invention, and finally to the submission of their manuscripts for publication. The discussion will include insight into their creative processes, how they overcame some of the challenges they faced, and the route to publication, followed by a Q&A with the audience.



Gabrielle Kimm is the author of three historical novels, all published by Little, Brown. Formerly a secondary school English teacher, she has two grown-up daughters, and lives on the south coast with her dog.



Loree Westron's debut novel *Missing Words* is set in Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, and was published last year by Fairlight Moderns. She previously taught Creative Writing at Portsmouth and Chichester universities, and currently leads the Portsmouth Writers' Workshop.

## Tuesday 8 March

**Time:** 6.30pm – 8.30pm

**Location:** Southsea Library

**Cost:** Free

### Off the Shelf Poetry Masterclass

An invitation to dust off your poem for a special feedback session with Portsmouth poets Denise Bennett and Maggie Sawkins. A short reading from Denise and Maggie will be followed by a workshop (please book separately if you wish to take part in the workshop) where you will receive advice on ways to bring your poem to a publishable standard.

To guarantee a place on the workshop participants are invited to submit their poem beforehand as a word document to Maggie at [hookedonwords@gmail.com](mailto:hookedonwords@gmail.com)

Denise Bennett has an MA in creative writing and runs poetry workshops in community settings. She won the Hamish Canham prize, awarded by the Poetry Society in 2004 and has published three collections, *Planting the Snow Queen* and *Parachute Silk* by Oversteps Books and *Water Chits* by Indigo Dreams. Her poetry is also widely featured on the University Portsmouth Literary Map.

Maggie runs Poetry Surgery sessions for the Poetry Society and is a member of the National Association of Writers in Education. She is the recipient of the 2013 Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry for her live literature production *Zones of Avoidance*. Her fourth collection, *The House where Courage Lives* is to be published by Waterloo Press in April 2022.

Poetry Reading with Denise Bennett and Maggie Sawkins – open to all – please reserve a 'reading only' ticket.

Feedback Workshop – limited to eight places – please reserve a 'reading and feedback ticket'.



**UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH**

## **Wednesday 9 March**

**Time:** 6pm – 8pm

**Location:** Eldon Building, University of Portsmouth

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

### **Diverse voices**

Come and listen to some of the different literatures and other histories our city has to tell. Researchers and writers from the University of Portsmouth will introduce new spoken word performers and offer the chance to pen some fresh words yourself.

For more information about the event please contact

**[alison.habens@port.ac.uk](mailto:alison.habens@port.ac.uk)**



## Thursday 10 March

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** Free (booking required)

### **Pete Adams: A funny way of being serious**

Pete Adams is an architect with a practice in Portsmouth, UK, and from there he has, over forty years, designed and built buildings across England and Wales. Pete took up writing after listening to a radio interview of the writer Michael Connolly. That evening Pete started writing and the series, *Kind Hearts and Martinets*, was on the starting blocks. That was some ten years ago, and hardly a day has passed where Pete has not worked on his writing. Currently he is well into his twelfth book, has a growing number of short stories, one, critically acclaimed and published by Bloodhound, and has written and illustrated a three-book series of historical nonsense stories called *Whopping Tales*.

Pete describes himself as an inveterate daydreamer, and escapes into those dreams by writing crime thrillers with a thoughtful dash of social commentary. He has a writing style shaped by his formative years on an estate that re-housed London families after WWII, and his books have been likened to the writing of Tom Sharpe; his most cherished review, "made me laugh, made me cry, and made me think".



## Friday 11 March

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

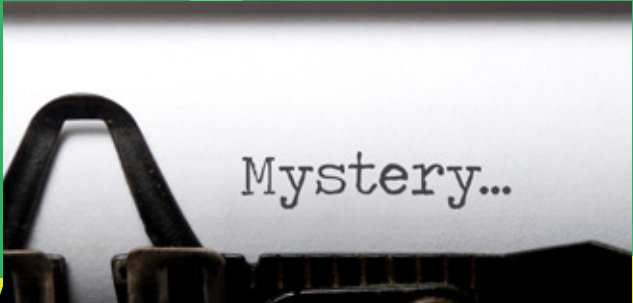
**Cost:** £6 – includes a glass of wine or a soft drink

### A Little Crime Music

You are cordially invited to come and enjoy an evening of crime related songs with guitar accompaniment during which Dot Marshall – Gent will perform a variety of songs and tell us a little about the stories and songwriters behind them.

Dot is a singer/songwriter and reviews new crime novels for Mystery People's E-Zine. She loves exploring the overlap where music meets crime fact and fiction.

As well as solo gigs, Dot belongs to a jazz/swing band that performs in and around Canterbury.



Mystery...

## Saturday 12 March

**Time:** 10am – 5pm

**Location:** Third Floor, Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** Price £7 per half day session or £11 all day ticket

### MysteryFest

Mystery Fest is a day festival of crime fiction and crime fact, which is a collaboration between Mystery People and Portsmouth BookFest.

As we return to an in-person conference, our theme for 2022 is the very topical Mental Health and Vulnerability in Crime Fiction.

This year the day is in two-part sessions. You may attend one session at £7 or attend both at the combined great value ticket price of £11.

Our Guest of Honour is Priscilla Masters, author of several series and medical mysteries, including the series featuring Claire Roget, a forensic psychiatrist, and the chilling stand-alone *The Subsequent Wife*.

Our Expert Witness is Dr Nick Pamment of the University of Portsmouth, who will talk about Youth Offending.

**Part 1:** 10am – 12.50pm (Doors open at 9.30am for tea/coffee included in your ticket)

- History Mystery Panel with Judith Cutler, Jeff Dowson, Edward Marston and Carol Westron.
- Guest of Honour Priscilla Masters interviewed by Linda Regan



- Contemporary crime panel with Chris Blackwater, Judith Cutler, Dot Marshall – Gent, Linda Regan and Leigh Russell.

**Break:** During the lunch break there are plenty of nearby places to buy food and the Lily and Lime Cafe (next to the conference room) will be open and serving snacks, or feel free to bring your own lunch and eat it in the conference room and chat to many of the speakers.

**Part 2:** 2pm – 5pm (Doors open at 1.30pm for soft drinks included in your ticket)

- Comedy and cosy crime panel with Jean G Goodhind (AKA Lizzie Lane and Jeannie Johnson), Helen Hollick, Linda Regan and Carol Westron
- Expert Witness: Dr Nick Pamment on youth crime
- Contemporary crime panel with Graham Minnett, Alison Morton, Christine Lawrence and Peter Tickler.

The Hayling Island Bookshop will man a stall selling the authors' books and there will be opportunities to chat to the authors and get books signed.

### Speakers:



Chris Blackwater is an engineer-turned-writer from Leeds, who now lives in Fareham. His first novel, *Emergency Drill*, set on a North Sea oil rig, was shortlisted for the CWA Debut Dagger Award and will

be published by Dark Edge Press in early 2022.



Judith Cutler is the author of more than forty novels, including several series. Most feature feisty women protagonists, such as Fran Harman, Lina Townend and newcomer Jane Cowan. Now a man,

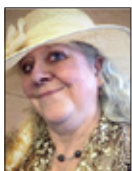
accompanied by his wife, of course, has joined their ranks via the Harriet and Matthew Rowsley series, set in the early 1860s. She lives in the Cotswolds with her husband, Edward Marston. Visit [www.judithcutler.com](http://www.judithcutler.com)



Jeff Dowson began his career in the theatre. He moved into television, working as a writer/producer/director. Screen credits include arts series, entertainment features, drama documentaries, drama series and TV films. Turning crime novelist in 2014, he introduced Bristol private eye Jack Shepherd in *Closing the Distance*. The second thriller, *Changing the Odds*, was published the following year, *Cloning the Hate* in 2017. His latest novel – *New friends, old enemies* – was published in 2021. Visit [www.jeffdowson.co.uk](http://www.jeffdowson.co.uk)



Jean G Goodhind was born in Bristol, lived in Bath and for four years on a sailing yacht in the Mediterranean. She has published over fifty novels and the Honey Driver cosy crime series is based on her time in Bath owning and running a (rather haunted) guest house. Unlike Honey Driver, Jean has never collected antique underwear (series kicks off with Honey buying a pair of Queen Victoria's bloomers at auction), but she is keen on collecting and not on decluttering. The series was a huge hit in Germany and has just been reissued in the UK, first title, *Bad Blood and Bloomers!* She also writes WW2 sagas as Lizzie Lane, latest series being *The Tobacco Girls*.



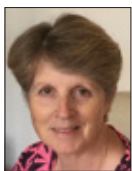
Helen Hollick: First published in 1994, Helen became a USA Today Bestseller with her historical novel, *The Forever Queen* (titled *A Hollow Crown* in the UK) with the sequel, *Harold the King* being novels that explore the events that led to the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Her *Pendragon's Banner Trilogy* is a fifth-century version of the Arthurian legend, and she writes a nautical adventure/fantasy series, *The Sea Witch Voyages*. She is now branching out into the quick read novella, 'Cosy Mystery' genre with her new venture, the *Jan Christopher Murder Mysteries*, set in the 1970s, with

the first in the series, *A Mirror Murder* (published in early 2021) incorporating her, often hilarious, memories of working as a library assistant. She lives in an eighteenth-century farmhouse in North Devon, runs *Discovering Diamonds*, a review blog for historical fiction, and occasionally gets time to write...

Visit [www.helenhollick.net](http://www.helenhollick.net)



Christine Lawrence is known locally for writing and performing at spoken word events, for facilitating writing workshops, and for founding the spoken word group T'Articulation. Her third novel, *Don't Step on the Cracks*, is a psychological thriller set in Fareham's homeless community, and draws upon real-life experiences.



Dot Marshall – Gent worked in the emergency services for twenty years before training to teach English. She worked at schools in Kent and London and holds an MA in Special and Inclusive Education from The Institute of Education along with an MA in English from Canterbury Christ Church University. Dot is now a watchkeeper with The National Coastwatch Institution and a school governor. She also performs with a swing band, writes and records music, songs and poems, and enjoys reading crime fiction novels as a reviewer for Mystery People.



Edward Marston is the author of the best-selling Railway Detective series, set in the reign of Queen Victoria. His other series feature Domesday Commissioners, an Elizabethan theatre troupe, a Restoration architect, a pair of Regency detectives and crime on the Home Front during the Great War. He lives in the Cotswolds and is married to fellow-writer, Judith Cutler. Visit [www.edwardmarston.com](http://www.edwardmarston.com)



Priscilla Masters: Born in Halifax, one of seven multi racial children adopted by an orthopaedic surgeon and his Classics graduate wife, Priscilla Masters is the author of the popular DI Joanna Piercy

novels set in and around Leek in the Staffordshire Moorlands. She also writes the Dr Claire Roget forensic psychology series, set in Stoke on Trent and the coroner Martha Gunn series set in Shrewsbury. Her latest Joanna Piercy title, *Almost a Whisper*, is due out in December 2021 and follows *The Subsequent Wife*, a standalone.

Visit [www.priscillamasters.co.uk](http://www.priscillamasters.co.uk)



GJ Minett is a full-time novelist, the author of four novels, all published by Bonnier Zaffre in London. They are *The Hidden Legacy*, *Lie In Wait*, *Anything For Her* and *The Syndicate*. He lives in Pagham with his wife, Elaine.



Alison Morton writes thrillers featuring tough but compassionate heroines. Apart from her award-winning nine-book Roma Nova series, she has published two novels in a new European crime thriller

series – *Double Identity* and *Double Pursuit*.

Visit: [www.alison-morton.com](http://www.alison-morton.com)



Dr Nick Pamment is a Principal Lecturer at the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies (ICJS), University of Portsmouth. Amongst other subjects, Nick coordinates modules on youth crime and youth justice, which

he will talk about as Mystery Fest's Expert Witness.



Linda Regan: Linda is a successful actress. She has worked extensively in television and film and theatre. Having had to be nice to many actors who she secretly would have liked to murder, she started

writing crime thrillers, and found she could kill them off

legally and they would never know. Her first crime novel, *Behind You*, set backstage in a pantomime where a serial killer is loose, won the Crème de la Crime worldwide search for new authors competition. She has gone on to write eight more successful thrillers.



Leigh Russell has sold over a million books in the Geraldine Steel crime series, and written trilogies featuring Ian Peterson and Lucy Hall. She has also had a dystopian novel and a historical novel published.

Leigh is chair of judges for the CWA Debut Dagger Award, and a Consultant Fellow to the Royal Literary Fund, and she runs occasional creative writing master classes. Visit [www.leighrussell.co.uk](http://www.leighrussell.co.uk)



Peter Tickler has six published crime novels under his belt, all set in and around the city of Oxford. He has been praised both for the authenticity of the Oxford location ('a wonderful gift of creating geographically

factual settings for his fictional characters' – *Oxford Times*) as well as the pace of his stories ('deliciously thrilling and wildly unpredictable' – *Oxford Today*). He has seen two of his scripts made into short films and most recently created and staged an extremely popular Murder Mystery Event.

Visit [www.petertickler.co.uk](http://www.petertickler.co.uk)



Carol Westron is a novelist who writes contemporary crime fiction and Victorian Murder Mysteries, all of which are set in the south of England. She is an expert on the Golden Age of Detective Fiction and gives

papers for crime fiction and academic conferences. She also writes articles and reviews books for Mystery People ezine. As a Creative Writing teacher she believes in the empowering and healing potential of creative activity and has also written and published a series of children's picture books illustrated by her severely autistic grandson. Visit [www.carolwestron.com](http://www.carolwestron.com)

## Sunday 13 March

**Time:** 1pm

**Location:** Portsmouth Central Library

**Cost:** £4

### Literary Fiction – 'An Intensity of Language'

With Alison Habens moderating a discussion with Gabrielle Kimm, Helen Salsbury and Loree Westron

What is 'literary fiction'? Is it merely a catch-all description for the sort of intellectual, difficult books which win the big prizes, or is there something more mysterious about it, something exciting, and harder to define about the term?

A panel of writers, including acclaimed American short story writer and novelist, Loree Westron and internationally published historical novelist Gabrielle Kimm, will explore the notion of 'literary fiction' by means of a discussion, readings from their books, and an opportunity of a Q&A with the audience.

Gabrielle Kimm is the author of three historical novels, all published by Little, Brown. Formerly a secondary school English teacher, she has two grown-up daughters, and lives on the south coast with her dog.

Helen Salsbury's debut novel *Sometimes When I Sleep* is a contemporary coming of age novel, influenced by late 18th Century Gothic literature. Helen is a short story writer, spoken word performer and community journalist, who has been longlisted for the Mslexia novel competition and shortlisted for the Impress Prize for New Writers.

Visit **[www.helensalsbury.com](http://www.helensalsbury.com)**

Loree Westron's debut novel *Missing Words* is set in Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, and was published last year by Fairlight Moderns. She previously taught Creative Writing at Portsmouth and Chichester universities, and currently leads the Portsmouth Writers' Workshop.





You can get this information in large print, Braille, audio or in another language by calling 023 9268 8064