



BIG BOOKEND

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME
2015

What is Leeds?



A place defined by its history, by the stories we recount and the events that have been played out on its streets? A place defined by its future, by new writers with visions of how our city should be shaped? A gateway to the world, a place where people from many different cultures live and work side by side? Perhaps it's all three - and many other things too.

This year the Leeds Big Bookend Festival will become a living map of the city.

There are inner journeys to explore; the stories of addicts in recovery in the performance *Drink with a Chimp* or the poetry of *Mirror Mirror on the Wall*.

There's an A-Z of Leeds' people and places, with Chris Nickson guiding us through the history of the city in short stories, Frances Brody telling of the Leeds Children's Holiday Camp in Silverdale and Steve Ward entertaining us with tales from the Leeds circus.

There are literary rambles to take. AJ Kirby and Richard Smyth consider the topography of the Leeds writing scene, N.E. David asks if it's necessary for a protagonist to go on a journey of transformation, Chris Tutton makes pathways between art and poetry, Jennifer Kavanagh describes the sights en route from being an agent to becoming an author, and Zodwa Nyoni speaks about road testing her new play, *Boi Boi is Dead* and going back on the road with *Nine Lives*.

From there we look outwards. Sunjeev Sahota discusses his latest book, *The Year of the Runaways*, the tale of thirteen young men who flee India to start a new life in Yorkshire, Max Farrar tackles the thorny

subject of how we understand Islamism and terrorism, while Jemimah Steinfeld examines the sexual and cultural revolution taking place in China. Philippa Lester and Diane Saunders bring us back home to discover the stories of Jewish immigrants to the city, in their book *From the Leylands to Leeds 17*.

And, as if that wasn't enough, we have workshops from SJ Bradley, the Index on Censorship Big Debate, evenings with *Fictions of Every Kind* and the Liars' League, and if you fancy adding your own mark to the map, come and check out *Stories from the Forests of Leeds*, a yearlong project that imagines the city as a forest, creating a treasury of tales from that parallel universe.

So get your backpack ready, fill up your water bottle, make sure you're wearing hardy shoes, and join us for a week of exploring Leeds, the city we call home. We'll see you there!

Our children's programme will take place in November so make sure you stay in touch.

For all the latest Big Bookend festival information visit our website bigbookend.co.uk and follow us on twitter.com/bigbookend & facebook.com/bigbookend.

See you at the
Big Bookend 2015!



The Big Bookend Launch Party and Drink With a Chimp from Common Chorus

when: Thurs 4th June @ 7.45pm,
preceded @ 7pm by the Big Bookend Launch Party,
includes a free drink and live music from singer song
writer, Lisa Glover

where: Carriageworks Theatre, Leeds, LS2 3AD

tickets: £6/£8. [click here for tickets](#)



Have you ever made a monkey of yourself?

At the Spacious Places Recovery Centre the first thing to know is that recovery from addiction isn't about giving up drink and drugs - that is where your journey begins. Common Chorus have been listening to and learning from people who have hit rock bottom, whose lives have become unmanageable and who have come together as part of something bigger than themselves; to save each other's lives.

There is an animal inside all of us, and these people have a story about how they learned to tame it. Drawing upon biographical stories, 12-step and Professor Steve Peters' *Chimp Paradox*; this is a story of hope for anyone who has ever wanted to be 'better'.

Common Chorus is a new theatre company based in Leeds led by Director Simon Brewis that gives platforms to unheard voices. Lynsey Jones and Daniel Ingram-Brown have been working alongside Simon with clients at Spacious Places Recovery Centre to develop Drink With a Chimp.

Drink With a Chimp from Common Chorus

when: Fri 5th June @ 7.45pm, with a post performance Q&A
from Daniel Ingram-Brown, Simon Brewis and Lynsey
Jones

where: Carriageworks Theatre, Leeds, LS2 3AD

tickets: £6/£8. [click here for tickets](#)

The Black Horse Poets



when: Tues 2nd June @

7pm - 9pm

where: Outlaws Yacht Club,
38, New York Street, Leeds,
LS2 7DY

tickets: FREE - no booking
required

**Join us for an evening of
poetry with the Black Horse
Poets from Wakefield.**

The Black Horse Poets have been showcasing the poetic talent of the people of Wakefield since 1998. The evening will consist of readings from the following Black Horse Poets: Ian Whiteley, Stefan Grieve, Michael Yates, Simon Widdop, Halima Mayat, Becca Murdoch, William Thirsk-Gaskill, Angie De Courcy Bower.

Liars' League Leeds

when: Fri 5th June @ 7pm-8.30pm

where: Waterstones [LS1 5JS]

tickets: FREE - no booking required

liars' league

Writers write. Actors read.
Audience listens. Everybody wins.

Writers write; actors read; audience listens; everybody wins. That's the philosophy behind the Liars' League, the wildly successful storytelling project that each month sees pro actors bringing to life exciting new short fiction. Liars' League Leeds was launched in 2012 as the first regional spin off from the long-running London event; there are now Liars' Leagues telling lies as far afield as Hong Kong and New York City.

The Leeds Liars are regular performers at literary festivals and can be found putting on regular shows at the Crowd of Favours in central Leeds. The theme for this event is Ink & Paper. Find out more about the Leeds Liars <https://liarsleagueleeds.wordpress.com>

Stories from the Forests of Leeds

when: Sat 6th June @11.00am - 4pm

where: The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, Leeds, LS2 9JT

tickets: FREE - no booking required

Imagine Leeds as a forest - a complex, diverse place with no wide landscape, just roads threaded between buildings connecting people and communities. Over the last year, author and theatre producer Daniel Ingram-Brown has been working with local writers in a series of workshops to create characters and stories that will form a treasury of forest tales and artwork. Come along and see what progress has been made. Simon Smith's illustrations will be on display and you can read some of the stories already written. Make up your own characters and place them on the map of Leeds and then write your own story from the Forests of Leeds. Your work might get chosen to go into the treasury too!



Events at Central Library, Leeds

For the fourth year running, major partner, Leeds Libraries continues to play a hugely important part in the Big Bookend festival. Come and support your library at a time when it really needs you.

Exhibition - Lee Goater: Circles

Circles



when: throughout June 2015

where: Arts Space, Leeds Central Library, Leeds LS1 3AB

tickets: Free entry

Responding to the space, the exhibition visually explores circles - culturally, socially and personally. Lee's work aims to be accessible, entertaining and, most importantly, for all. His exhibition is free of charge and displayed throughout June in The Arts Space.

Steve Ward: Beneath the Big Top



when: Fri 5th June @ 1pm - 2pm

where: Arts Space, Leeds Central Library, Leeds LS1 3AB

tickets: FREE - no booking required

Join us to hear local author Steve Ward talk about his latest book, *Beneath the Big Top*.

Steve will talk about the social history of circus as well as Leeds circus tales and history.

N.E. David: The Changing Character of Fiction

when: Sat 6th June @ 11.30am - 12.30pm

where: Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB

tickets: FREE - booking recommended

The vogue in modern fiction is for the main protagonist to undergo change through some form of 'journey'. In this short discussion, novelist N.E. David will examine whether this is necessary for a piece of literature to be meaningful or whether we should not simply enjoy a book for the sake of the story itself.

N.E. David is the pen name of York author Nick David. Besides being a regular contributor to Literary Festivals in the North East, Nick is also a founder member of York Authors and co-presenter of Book Talk on BBC Radio York. His debut novel, *Birds of the Nile*, was published by Roundfire in 2013. His second novel, *The Burden*, came out in April.



AJ Kirby and Richard Smyth: The Conversation

where: Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB

when: Sat 6th June @ 1pm - 2pm

tickets: FREE - booking recommended

In 2013 AJ Kirby and Richard Smyth were selected among the 20 best writers under 40 in Leeds in our LS13 competition. Two years later, the burgeoning early careers of these two West Yorkshire-based writers have continued apace. This event

brings them together to discuss the development of their writing, in particular their two recently published novels, *Perfect World* and *Wild Ink*. It asks what next for these two authorial Tyke-tyros? More broadly, the conversation considers what the current topography of the Leeds writing scene might be, and wonders whether the city might be putting itself back on the literary map.

Chris Tutton: Poetry of Art Workshop

where: Leeds Central Library, Art Library Reading Room

when: Sat 6th June @ 2.30pm - 3.30pm

tickets: FREE - places are limited and booking is recommended at ticketsource.co.uk/leedslibraryevents



What are the links between poetry and art? Can a poem be written about an image or a piece of art? Create poetry inspired by visual art in this friendly and interactive workshop.

Extraordinary Tales from the City with Frances Brody, Oliver Cross and Richard Wilcocks

when: Sat 6th June @ 2.30pm - 4pm

where: Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB

tickets: £3 from bigbookend.co.uk

Frances Brody, crime author, shares stories from her Frances McNeil book *Now I Am A Swimmer*, the first one hundred years of Leeds Children's Holiday Camp at Silverdale, and the novel it inspired. Oliver Cross, award-winning Yorkshire Evening Post columnist, presents a compilation of his work in *Cats & Other Party Animals*. Richard Wilcocks, Secretary of Headingley LitFest, talks about his *Stories From The War Hospital*, when the Red Cross Flag was hoisted at Beckett Park and the Army moved in.

Jemimah Steinfeld: Little Emperors and Material Girls: Sex and Youth in Modern China

when: Sat 6th June @ 11.00am - 12pm

where: Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB

tickets: FREE - booking recommended

Behind China's economic growth, a once-in-a-generation sexual and cultural revolution is taking place - all in the bars, cafes, and streets of China's growing mega-cities. Jemimah Steinfeld, author of *Little Emperors and Material Girls: Sex and Youth in Modern China*, will talk about this revolution. Steinfeld has written for CNN, Time Out and The Telegraph, amongst other publications. Through drawing on individual interviews and scholarly research, her book introduces some of the nation's young movers and shakers, from single women above the age of 27 who are labelled leftover, to the nation's pick-up artists, a man trying to sell sex toys to the rich, an actor trying to make it in "Chollywood" and many more.

This event is in partnership with Asia House, a centre of expertise on Asia located in London and The Business Confucius Institute at the University of Leeds.



Sunjeev Sahota in conversation with Dr Katy Shaw

when: Sat 6th June @ 12.30pm - 1.30pm

where: Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB

tickets: £3 from bigbookend.co.uk



One of the UK's most promising writers, Sunjeev Sahota, will be joining us to discuss his latest book *The Year of the Runaways* (published June 2015). It tells of the bold dreams and daily struggles of an unlikely family thrown together by circumstance. Thirteen young men live in a house in Sheffield, each in flight from India and in desperate search of a new life. Sweeping between India and England, and between childhood and the present day, Sunjeev Sahota's latest novel is a story of dignity in the face of adversity and the ultimate triumph of the human spirit. Sunjeev will discuss his book with Dr Katy Shaw, who leads research into twenty-first century writings at Leeds Beckett University. The event will feature a reading alongside an audience Q&A.

This event is in partnership with Asia House, a centre of expertise on Asia located in London.



Chris Nickson: Leeds, The Biography: A History of Leeds in Short Stories

when: Sat 6th June @ 2pm - 3pm

where: Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB

tickets: FREE - booking recommended

Chris will be discussing and reading from *Leeds, The Biography: A History of Leeds in Short Stories* (Armley Press, July 2015) a collection of tales beginning in 363 AD in Chapel Allerton and finishing in 1963 with the Beatles at the Queen's Hall. It will take in many facets of Leeds history, one or two familiar like the creation of Briggate in 1207 but many that peek into the shadows, of ordinary people like 'Little Alice Musgrave' who was the first person to die in the plague of 1645.

Chris Nickson was born and raised in Leeds. After living abroad for many years, then elsewhere in England, he returned to his hometown almost two years ago. He's the author of nine historical crime novels set in Leeds, as well as others in Chesterfield and Seattle, and also a music journalist.

Zodwa Nyoni and Alex Chisholm with Yvette Huddleston: New Writers, New Writing

when: Sat 6th June @ 3.30pm - 4.30pm

where: Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB

tickets: £3 from bigbookend.co.uk



Leeds based playwright and poet, Zodwa Nyoni, fresh from the success of her first full length play, *Boi Boi is Dead* which was co-produced with West Yorkshire Playhouse, Tiata Fahodzi and Watford Palace Theatre this year, with mentor and dramaturg, Alex Chisholm will talk about new writing, working with new writers, the writer/dramaturg relationship and the opportunities that exist if you are determined enough to go after them. The event will be chaired by arts journalist and writer Yvette Huddleston.

Zodwa Nyoni won the Channel 4 Playwrights' Scheme and was Writer-in-Residence at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in 2014. She has been Apprentice Poet-in-Residence at the Ilkley Literature Festival, Writer-in Residence at Leeds Kirkgate Market and the I Love West Leeds festival and Poet-in-Residence at BBC Radio Leeds. *Boi Boi is Dead* was shortlisted for the international, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. *Nine Lives*, focusing on the life of asylum seekers in Britain today, set in Leeds, is about to tour. Zodwa has performed her poetry at various events and venues in the UK, America and South Africa.

Events at Leeds Church Institute

As a major partner in the Leeds Big Bookend Festival, the Leeds Church Institute (LCI) is hosting a stream of socially engaged and participatory literary events for the festival. Come and join us for a thought-provoking day that celebrates the rich diversity of Leeds. LCI is located opposite the Corn Exchange and above the shop, Out of this World.

From Agent to Author with Jennifer Kavanagh

when: Sat 6th June @ 12.30pm - 1.30pm

where: Leeds Church Institute, LS1 6DG

tickets: FREE - booking recommended. To book, phone 0113 391 7928 or email events@leedschurchinstitute.org

Jennifer will talk about her first novel, *The Emancipation of B*, and how it feels to write fiction rather than non-fiction, moving from being an agent to being a writer. She is published by Roundfire. *B is not a child of his time; as an outsider, he hides his secrets well. Freedom is all he dreams of. But when it comes at last, it is in the most unexpected way - and at a considerable cost.*



Jennifer worked in publishing for nearly thirty years, the last fourteen as an independent literary agent. In the past ten years she has run a community centre in London's East End, worked with street homeless people and refugees, and set up microcredit programmes in London, and in Africa. She has also worked as a research associate for the Prison Reform Trust and currently facilitates workshops for conflict resolution both in prison and in the community. She is now a leader of workshops and retreats and in the last twelve years has written seven books of non-fiction.

SJ Bradley: Short Story Workshop, Ideas are Everywhere!

when: Sat 6th June @ 1pm - 2.30pm

where: Leeds Church Institute, LS1 6DG

tickets: £3, max of 12 places from bigbookend.co.uk

In this practical, fun workshop, you will discuss ways of pulling short story ideas out of thin air. What is an idea, and where can you find them? How can you bring tiny, disparate threads from your everyday lives into story-shaped pieces that others will want to read? With prompts, ideas for structure and narrative, come prepared to work hard, think and get involved, and leave with your head buzzing with inspiration. Things to bring along: a notebook or something to write on, a fair bit of enthusiasm, and a willingness to get involved.

SJ Bradley's short fiction has appeared in December magazine, Untitled Books, the LS13 anthology, and Toasted Cheese. In 2013 she was shortlisted for the Willesden Herald prize and her novel, *Brick Mother*, is published by Dead Ink Books. She is the curator & organiser of Fictions of Every Kind, a Leeds-based non-profit literary social group.

Max Farrar: Islamism & Terror: A Western Way of Doing Politics?

when: Sat 6th June @ 2pm-3.30pm
where: Leeds Church Institute, LS1 6DG
tickets: £3 from bigbookend.co.uk



Max will be looking at the 'who, how and why' of what we call terrorism and our responses to it. The UK media's reduction of Islam to Islamism, and its reduction of jihad to terrorism, and its blaming both of these misunderstandings on multiculturalism which makes it almost impossible for us to have an intelligent discussion. In this talk, Max Farrar will enlighten those who know little and provide space for dialogue, in the company of people who will know more than he does.

Supporting speaker to be confirmed.

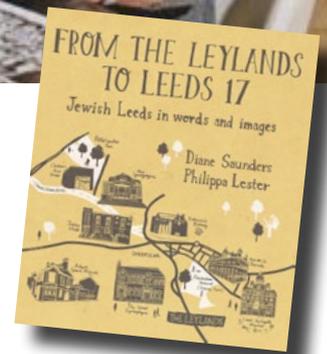
Max Farrar is a sociologist and activist who has lived in Leeds since 1968. Most of his work has centred on the Chapeltown area of the city. He retired from Leeds Met/Beckett University in 2009. He is co-editor of *Islam in the West - Key Issues in Multiculturalism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). His writing is available at maxfarrar.org.uk

Philippa Lester and Diane Saunders: From the Leylands to Leeds 17

when: Sat 6th June @ 2.30pm - 4pm
where: Leeds Church Institute, LS1 6DG
tickets: FREE - booking recommended. To book, phone 0113 391 7928 or email events@leedschurchinstitute.org



Published in November 2014 and selling over 800 copies, *From The Leylands to Leeds 17* was co-authored by first time published writers Philippa Lester and Diane Saunders. In this event, they will explain how a small one off community project became a 400 page coffee table book encompassing over 100 interviews, many family photographs and documents and hours of writing during the four years they took to produce the book.



Philippa Lester worked in Further Education for many years. After retirement she turned social entrepreneur and wrote *From the Leylands to Leeds 17* together with Diane Saunders. Diane works in Financial Services and has many other interests including politics and community activism. They continue to work together on other literary projects.

Poetry: Mirror Mirror on the Wall

when: Sun 7th June @ 2pm-4.30pm
where: Outlaws Yacht Club, 38 New York Street, Leeds, LS2 7DY
tickets: FREE - no booking required

As writers, we often reflect upon events within our lives and how they have altered our perceptions, beliefs and relationships. This event will celebrate poets who have looked into the past, present, and future within their work, to create provocative, engaging poetry.

We showcase some established and some upcoming poets of Leeds. Joining us will be Amina Alyal and Oz Hardwick performing their collection *Close As Second Skins*. Gill Lambert, Maria Preston and Hannah Stone will be reading from their collaborative collection *An After Dinner's Sleep*. There will also be individual readings from Steve Nash, Sarah Fletcher, and Oz Hardwick.

This event will be the finale to the Big Bookend festival weekend rounding off our literary feast in style.

The Index on Censorship Magazine Big Debate, in partnership with the Leeds Big Bookend: The New Civility: Are Religious Freedom and Freedom of Speech Intertwined?

when: Wed 10th June 2015 @ 6.30pm

where: Waterstones, Albion Street, Leeds, LS1 5JS

tickets: £3 from bigbookend.co.uk



Does freedom of religion and freedom of speech come as a package or can you pick and choose? Do those people who suggest freedom of expression should be civilised and that we should be wary of causing offence to people's religious sensibilities have a point? Or is the world full of offended people and any idea of holding back ends up with us not being able to talk about important issues?

Our panellists are Rachael Jolley, editor of the Index on Censorship magazine; Anthony Clavane, journalist, author of *Promised Land* and playwright; Chris Bond, journalist with the Yorkshire Post; Chief Imam Qari Muhammad Asim MBE of Leeds Makkah Masjid; Revd Dr Stephen Sorby, Director of Ministry & Pastoral Care at Ebor Ministries.



Fictions of Every Kind: Transformations

when: Monday 29th June @ 7.30pm

where: Wharf Chambers, Leeds, LS2 7EQ

tickets: £3 on the door

From literary social group, Fictions of Every Kind, their June event is a celebration of transformations, of transmogrifications, and of things turning out very differently to what you might have expected. Two world-class writers, Adam Marek and Kirstin Innes will be speaking and reading from their work.

Adam is an award-winning short story writer. He won the 2011 Arts Foundation Short Story Fellowship, and was shortlisted for the inaugural Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award and the Edge Hill Short Story Prize. His stories have appeared on BBC Radio 4 Extra, and in many magazines and anthologies, including Prospect and The Sunday Times Magazine, and The Best British Short Stories 2011 and 2013. His short story collections, *The Stone Thrower* and *Instruction Manual for*

Swallowing are published in the UK by Comma Press, and in North America by ECW Press.

Kirstin's short stories have appeared at the Melbourne Writers Festival, Toronto IFOA, and on Radio 4. Her first novel, *Fishnet*, will be published soon by Freight books.

Please note: Wharf Chambers is a members' club, and you must be a member in order to attend an event there. Joining costs £1 and takes a minimum of 48 hours to take effect. To join, go to www.wharfchambers.org.

This event is supported by the Leeds Inspired grants scheme.

Support The Big Bookend

It is really important for us to acknowledge and thank our partners, sponsors and supporters. Since its inception in 2011, the Big Bookend has been supported by a wide variety of public, commercial and private bodies and organisations across Leeds and nationally. Many people have given their services and time for free and continue to do so. None more so than the Big Bookend team, our volunteers and the many friends we now count amongst our regional writers, poets and performers.

Festival Team

Fiona Gell, Festival Coordinator

Daniel Ingram-Brown Chair of the Big Bookend team

Rebecca Leeming and Halima Mayat, Poetry Coordinators

Hannah Powley, Marketing Coordinator

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A special thank you to our partners & sponsors

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The Leeds Library: theleedslibrary.org.uk

The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery: library.leeds.ac.uk/art-gallery

The Index on Censorship: indexoncensorship.org

Asia House: asiahouse.org

Business Confucius Institute, University of Leeds: lubswww.leeds.ac.uk/cibul/confucius-institute

Red Ladder Theatre Company: redladder.co.uk

Outlaws Yacht Club: outlawsyachtclub.com

MissyRedBoots: missyredboots.com

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