

**15-18**  
THU SUN

March 2018

# Writing on Air

Broadcast Literature Festival

Great writing from across Yorkshire.  
Live at Chapel FM Arts Centre.  
Broadcast on East Leeds FM



Photo by Joanna Sedgwick

Festival Theme: Borderland

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For four days this spring, Chapel FM Arts Centre hosts a raft of great writing from across Yorkshire, all broadcast through Chapel FM's very own community radio station, East Leeds FM. You can find more information, listen live or listen again at [www.chapelfm.co.uk](http://www.chapelfm.co.uk)

With over fifty programmes, Writing On Air 2018 is the biggest yet. But it's the scope of the material and the commitment of the contributors that really counts. This year's festival takes the theme 'Borderlands' which resonates throughout the schedule in different ways.

## 15 March 2018 – Day 1

THU

### 10.30am First Story

Young writers from schools in West Yorkshire present work they have created with First Story writers. First Story brings professional writers into secondary schools to work with pupils and teachers.

- 10.30am Leeds East Academy
- 11.30am Interview with Andy Hill
- 11.45am Belle Vue Girls & Brigshaw
- 12.30pm Grange Technology College

### FIRST STORY

Changing lives through writing



### 5.15pm Hull Young Playwrights

Six short plays from The Writing Squad and Hull Truck Theatre. The Squad is a free programme for writers aged 16–21.



### 6.15pm The Drama of Words

Members of East Leeds Youth Theatre, now based at Chapel FM, give us a sharp take on the idea of 'closed/open'.



### 2.30pm Sharkey and the Words

A collaboration between Chapel FM's young Associate Writers and jazz phenomenon Chris Sharkey who is currently musician-in-residence at the Chapel.



### 6.30pm Navigating Borderlands R

Students on the English and Creative Writing courses at Leeds Beckett University explore the implications of 'the border'.



### 3.00pm Poetry Soundscapes

Original poems and found sounds from Seacroft poet and musician Jaimes Lewis Moran.



### 7.30pm Narayana and Bhataryan

David Robertson and Players perform the only play ever written by world-famous Yorkshire sculptor Henry Moore.



### 3.30pm The Sleeping

Sounds from the edge of sleep, a sonic collage by Alex Rushfirth and Rosalie Counelis.



### 8.00pm Talkin' 'bout my Generation R

What does it mean to be over 60 in the UK? Cineage Live, older performers from Leeds Beckett, tell it how it is.



### 4.15pm Linda Says

Burning to write and publish? Writer Linda Sage tells us how to break down the barriers and get it done.



### 8.45pm North and Mourning R

Laura Potts reads poems written for the BBC's Contains Strong Language Festival, accompanied by Keely Hodgson on cello.



**16** March 2018 – Day 2  
FRI

### 9.15am **Walking Back to Happiness**

Helen Burke and Phil Pattinson kidnap happiness in poetry, music – and in their own inimitable way.



### 10.15am **Writers in Transit**

Peter Spafford talks to Artemis, International Writers at Leeds, and poets from Germany, France, and Spain.



### 11.15am **Off the Medieval Map**

Poets Oz Hardwick and Hannah Stone follow medievalism as it morphs into contemporary art forms.



### 12.15pm **Beyond the Borderline**

Storyteller Vickie Orton and her guests share stories about the representation of disability in fairy tales.



### 1.00pm **Pocket Dante**

Actor and writer Roger Harington performs his own 15 minute introduction to Divinia Comedia.



### 1.30pm **Bi'An**

Playwright Mary Cooper, with writers Adam Strickson and Jenna Ng, talk about Bi'An, the UK's brand new Chinese Writers Network.



### 2.15pm **Pocket Harington**

Roger Harington performs his own 15 minute introduction to the poetry of Roger Harington.



### 2.30pm **Let's Dance**

A love story in two moving vehicles. Intriguing new radio drama from James Fernie and Linda Casper.



### 3.00pm **Once Upon a Time**

Sita Poran and Lucia Fella tell stories from the borderlands of life and the afterlife, with master storyteller Matthew Bellwood.



### 3.45pm **Lavender Ink**

It's Pat's wedding day and at least her mum's happy. Till she remembers those letters. 1960's drama from Rosalind Fairclough and JY Saville.



### 4.30pm **Portrait of a Pedestrian** R

What's the space we occupy as pedestrians? Joanna Sedgwick presents a series of her own poems and photographs.



### 5.15pm **On the Edges** R

Otley's Courthouse Writers, with James Nash, invite you into the borderlands through poetry, flash fiction and microdrama.



### 6.30pm **NeurodiVERSE**

Many people believe that being autistic and creative are mutually exclusive. NeurodiVERSE was created to challenge that.



### 7.15pm **Random Search**

Jaimes Lewis Moran and Dave Binns give us their highly original merging of poem and song.



### 7.45pm **Poetry for the Newly Single 40 Something** R

Poetry in performance from Maria Stephenson and friends on the theme of Maria's recent book.



### 9.15pm **Never Worn** R

Songwriter Ric Neale and poet Rob Reed perform their moving meditation in music and words on Hemingway's shortest story.



**17** March 2018 – Day 3

SAT

### 9.30am Tipping the Iceberg

What lies concealed beneath the words we say? Poet and word-juggler John Hepworth takes a peek.



### 10.15am Origins of a Writer

In the latest in his series, Jaimes Lewis Moran talks to poet and playwright Peter Spafford about the writing life.



### 11.00am Heartline

Change affects us in ways we struggle to understand. Helen Thompson's uplifting story faces it out.



### 11.15am Touchline

On one side, dreams are shattered; on the other, they are fulfilled. Mike Thompson's tale of triumph over disappointment.



### 11.45am Town

Love is a beautiful thing but often dresses badly. Words and music from Wakefield's finest: Jimmy Andrex and Jane Steele.



### 12.30pm Reading Out

Does hearing your own poem read aloud by another poet yield insights? Five poets find out, with James Fernie.



### 1.30pm Between Water and Air

Musical Arc present stories and music inspired by magical merdogs and shape-shifting kelpies.



### 2.45pm The Space Between

Poets Sandra Burnett and Gill Lambert ponder the female perspective on physical and emotional borders.



### 3.30pm Live from The Leeds Library: Rob Cowen

As part of the Wild Lines festival with Big Bookend, Rob Cowen talks about his landmark nature book, Common Ground.



### 4.45pm 250!

The Leeds Library is one of the city's best-hidden gems. Staff take us on a tour as they celebrate the 250th anniversary of its founding.



### 5.30pm Tom Tit

Mark Connors and John Lake from Armley Press preview Mark's forthcoming second novel, Tom Tit and the Maniacs.



### 6.00pm Six Minute Reads

Short stories commissioned by Read Manchester from young writers in The Writing Squad, produced by Steve Dearden.



### 6.45pm Ian Duhig

Ian Duhig reads and talks about his work on Refugee Tales 2 (Comma Press) and about his Irish heritage on this St. Patrick's Day Night.



### 8.00pm Tales from the Tachograph

A music and poetry sandwich inspired by motorways, from Gaia Holmes and Winston Plowes. Colin Robinson on guitar.



### 9.00pm Half Moon over the Chapel

Writers from Half Moon Books in Otley perform an array of work, hosted by Mark Connors.



### 10.00pm WordSurf

Contributors to the first 3 issues of Leeds-based magazine Strix read their work in an immersive music and words float-around.



18 March 2018 – Day 4  
SUN

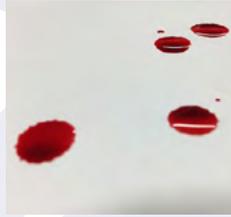
10.30am **From the Edge**

Hosted by Horror writer Janine-Langley Wood, emerging writers read their individual takes on being trapped between two worlds.



11.30am **Hidden Stains**

Isabel's missing school again this month. But why? Provocative new radio drama by Charlotte Carrick and Hannah Westall.



12.15pm **The Play What I Wrote**

Playwrights Charley Miles, Chris O'Connor and Charlotte Carrick discuss their varied experiences of theatre writing.



1.15pm **Thin Line: Writers and Mental Health**

What links creativity and depression? Helen Shay in discussion with Char March and Mark Connors.



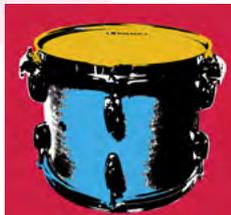
2.15pm **Leeds Savage Club**

A peek into the workings of the oldest-established writing group in Leeds as they gnash over the Borderlands theme.



3.15pm **The Drum Also Dreams**

The drum has been integral to human life since the Stone Age. Rosalind York and Stuart Kaplan with a brief history of banging on things.



R Radio Theatre: Audience welcome

4.30pm **War on Our Doorstep**

What do the housewife, theatre buff, and rookie soldier have in common? They all lived in Leeds in 1939. Text and music from Trio Literati.



5.30pm **The Village Voice**

On 31st December 2017, strangers were spotted in an English village on the east coast. A live reading of the villagers' conversation on social media, before the post was deleted.



Photo © Joanna Sedgwick

**Writing On Air** is only one feature of an ongoing regular programme of spoken word output from Chapel FM. On ELFM we have regular **Love the Words** programming, Open Mic nights and spoken word performances.

If you're a participating writer in the festival, or a listener with an interest in making broadcasts, do get in touch. In the meantime, you can Listen Again to the entire festival and to all our programming at [www.chapelfm.co.uk](http://www.chapelfm.co.uk)