

WORDS IN THE CITY

10 – 13 May 2018

A long weekend of spoken word
& poetry at venues across Leeds

www.witc.org.uk





Welcome to the first Words in the City weekend in Leeds, celebrating poetry and spoken word in the heart of the city.

Tickets are on sale at www.witc.org.uk
(unless otherwise stated)

Tickets and information

For further information, full programme and tickets: www.witc.org.uk

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Access

All venues are accessible. Some venues including the Carriageworks have hearing loops. See website for more details.



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Saturday 12 May

Linton Kwesi Johnson

“Writing was a political act and poetry was a cultural weapon.” Join us for an electric performance by legendary reggae poet and social activist Linton Kwesi Johnson.

Johnson’s work is political and necessary, drawing attention to the lived Black British experience, and calling out systemic racism, policy brutality and abuse of power.

“the first crossover voice, who made it possible for a generation to think of themselves as black and creative in literature, music, the media”

Caryl Phillips

In 2002 Jamaican-born Johnson became the second living poet and the only black poet published in the Penguin Modern Classics series.

As well as several commercially successful and classic albums as a reggae artist, Johnson’s volumes of poetry include *Dread Beat and Blood* (1975), *Inglan is a Bitch* (1980) and *Tings an Times* (1991).

Hosted by Khadijah Ibrahiim with supporting poets. Join us after the show for a set in the bar by reggae dj Fluid.

Date Saturday 12 May

Time 7.30 – 8.30pm

Venue Carriageworks Main Auditorium, LS2 3AD

Price £15/13 concessions



Thursday 10 May

LIVEwire at Seven

Cecilia Knapp and Louise Fazackerley

New spoken word night bridging the North/South divide. Featuring London poet and theatre maker Cecilia Knapp and Wigan's Louise Fazackerley.

Hosted by Matt Abbott and presented by Nymphs & Thugs.

Date Thursday 10 May

Time 7 – 10pm

Venue Seven Arts Centre,
Harrogate Road, LS7 3PD

Price PAY WHAT YOU FEEL



Dead and Wake

Khadijah Ibrahiim plus guest musicians

Experience a Jamaican 'Nine Night' with poet and live artist Khadijah Ibrahiim. Interactive candlelit performance exploring Caribbean rituals around death through poetry, music, ghost stories and song.

Features specially created poems and traditional Nine Night songs. A WITC micro-commission.

Date Thursday 10 May

Time 7.30 – 8.30pm

Venue Hope House, Mabgate, LS9 7DR

Price FREE, just turn up



Friday 11 May

Simon Armitage

One of the UK's leading poets and the University of Leeds' new Professor of Poetry, Simon Armitage reads from his latest collection and talks about his award-winning work in this intimate special event.

Date Friday 11 May

Time 6.30 – 7.30pm

Venue Leeds University: Workshop
Theatre, LS2 9JT

Price FREE but tickets must be booked
in advance from www.witc.org.uk



Skip Rap

By Alan 'Cool' Clay with Testament

An angry love song to grit, endurance and creativity, with a kick of reality, a storming soundtrack and an energy that will have you up on your feet.

This defiant, bold performance fusing hip-hop, spoken word, digital imagery and theatre explores what it's like to be treated like trash and how you find your way out of the junk. Alan Clay is a performer and rapper with a learning disability and resident artist with Mind the Gap. He's joined by acclaimed MC, poet and theatre-maker Testament (Blake Remixed, Black Men Walking).

Supported by Mind the Gap.

Date Friday 11 May

Time 8.30 – 9.30pm

Venue The Carriageworks Studio, LS2 3AD

Price £7/5 concessions

Age Suitable for adults and 14+



Saturday 12 May

Free drop-in activities at the Carriageworks
Join us at the Words in the City festival hub
for poetry activities throughout the day.

Poetry Film Lounge

Grab a drink from the café bar and watch a playlist of films by Wordlife, Studio 12, Ilkley Literature Festival and Artlink.

**Poetry Sound Lounge:
Voices of Light and Dark**

Enter the dark and experience the illumination of poetry as Special Collections at the Brotherton Library and the University of Leeds Poetry Centre (ULPC) invite you to listen to recordings of poems from Tony Harrison to Malika Booker and Vahni Capildeo.

Studio 12 VR station

Experience a grime slam in Virtual Reality.

Chapel FM Arts Centre

At Words in the City throughout the day, interviewing poets and participants to discover the stories behind the festival. Look out for them and listen in to their broadcasts on East Leeds FM at: chapel.fm.co.uk/elfm-player

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 10am – 4pm
Venue The Carriageworks, LS2 3AD
Price FREE
Age Suitable for all

The Carriageworks Café will be open
for refreshments



Saturday 12 May

Big Teeth

**Get tucked up in the Library
for a bedtime story with a bite!**

An audio show and installation for 2 adults at a time. Expect red cloaks, wolves, and suspiciously tasty pies.

30 minute slots must be pre-booked but the installation will be open to explore between 2.30 – 4pm on Saturday 12 May.

Date Saturday 12 May 10am – 5pm,
Sunday 13 May 11am – 3pm
Venue Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB
Price £6/4 concessions
Age Suitable for adults and 15+
Book at www.ticketsource.co.uk/leedslibraryevents



Poetry Writing Workshop

With Nick Makoha

In these times of endless travel where is home? And where do people feel they belong - to the land of their birth or the place they live?

Join writer-in-exile Nick Makoha for a special workshop to explore these questions through poetry. Please bring a manuscript or selection of poems you are working on, a notebook and a photo of yourself.

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 11am – 1pm
Venue The Leeds Library, LS1 6AL
Price £15/10 concessions
Age Suitable for adults of all levels of experience



Saturday 12 May

Ishaq Imruh Bakari

The Leeds launch of internationally renowned writer & film-maker Ishaq Imruh Bakari's latest poetry collection, *Without Passport or Apology*.

The event includes a discussion with Sai Murray about Bakari's poetry and his involvement with social justice campaigns in Leeds, including the early movement to remember David Oluwale and the community action that resulted in the Cowper Street School strike in 1973.

In partnership with Remember David Oluwale, the Racial Justice Network and Chapeltown Arts.

A WITC micro-commission.

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 1 – 3pm
Venue Chapeltown Library, LS7 3EX
Price FREE, just turn up



Words in the City in Room 700 Hosted by Wordlife's Joe Kriss with DJ Dipak Mistry

Lift your spirits with performances by some of the region's most exciting spoken word artists, including poets from Wordclub and Leeds Young Authors and the premiere of a new commission from Ruvimbo Togara.

A WITC micro-commission.

A cafe-bar selling drinks and cakes will be available throughout the day.

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 1 – 5pm
Venue Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB
Price FREE, just turn up



Saturday 12 May

If I Can't Be Someone Else I Might As Well Be Myself

A special event featuring work by local LGBT* poets including Stevie James who will present work from new collection, *A Lonely Man Circling The Earth*, accompanied by a powerful projected backdrop. The event will include a discussion around the themes raised.

Presented with Arts & Minds and Leeds Survivors Press.

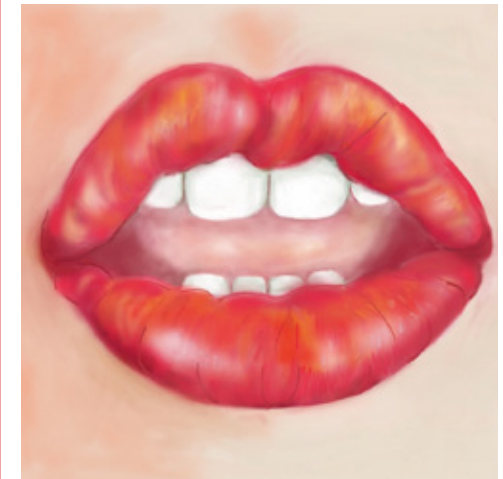
Date Saturday 12 May
Time 2.30 – 3.30pm
Venue The Tetley, LS10 1JQ
Price FREE, just turn up



Red Hoods, Wolves and Transforming Fairy Tales: Storytelling Workshop

Big Teeth artist Elizabeth Dearnley reveals some of the surprising hidden histories behind familiar fairy tales, and invites you to try your hand at creating and performing your own stories.

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 2.30 – 4pm
Venue Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB
Price £8/6 concessions.
Book at www.ticketsource.co.uk/leedslibraryevents



Saturday 12 May

Mixtape

Nick Makoha and Roger Robinson

A brand new show splicing song, spoken word, music and poetry, with enduring friendship at its heart. Compiling the definitive tracklist, Trinidadian Roger Robinson and Ugandan Nick Makoha speak about their personal experiences and observations all tied together with an unforgettable soundtrack of songs, from Afrobeats to hip-hop, from reggae to soul.

Date Saturday 12 May

Time 4 – 5pm

Venue The Carriageworks Studio, LS2 3AD

Price £7/5 concessions

The Northern Slamhouse

Slam is poetry's angrier, bolder little brother. We've asked five of the region's top promoters to handpick the North's rising stars and throw them together alongside five Leeds-based poets to battle it out at the Northern Slamhouse. There's a £200 prize on offer, a support slot for Linton Kwesi Johnson that evening and a paid slot at a future Wordlife show.

Slots for Leeds based poets will be pulled out of a hat from those that register interest. Hosted by Wordlife's Joe Kriss. Email joe@weareopus.org to sign up.

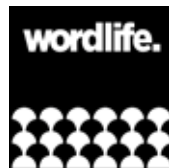
Presented with Wordlife.

Date Saturday 12 May

Time 5.30 – 6.30pm

Venue Carriageworks Bar, LS2 3AD

Price FREE, just turn up



Sunday 13 May

Apples & Snakes Scratch Club

A workshop open to everyone, from beginners looking for a confidence boost before their first open mic night, to experienced performers asking for honest feedback as they experiment with new work.

Bring a poem to share.

Date Sunday 13 May

Time 11.30am – 2.30pm

Venue Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB

Price FREE but places must be booked in advance from witc.org.uk

Age Suitable for adults and 16+



Sorrel and Black Cake

A Windrush Story

A scratch performance of a new show celebrating the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the SS Empire Windrush. Sorrel & Black Cake fuses music, movement and oral history to tell the story of the remarkable individuals who made the crossing from the Caribbean to Leeds in the 1940s and 50s.

Join this young cast as they perform a never-before-seen extract of this production and discuss their experiences creating this new work.

In association with the Geraldine Connor Foundation.

Date Sunday 13 May

Time 1.30 – 2.30pm

Venue The Carriageworks Studio, LS2 3AD

Price FREE, just turn up

Poets in the Bar

Lively performances from some of the region's most exciting poets and spoken word performers. Hosted by Sai Murray.

Date Sunday 13 May

Time 2 – 4pm

Venue The Carriageworks Bar, LS2 3AD

Price FREE, just turn up

Sunday 13 May

Know Your Place

Kate Fox, Jackie Hagan, Kirsty Taylor, Khadijah Ibrahiim

Hosted by poet, comedian and BBC Radio 4 regular Kate Fox, some of the finest Northern performers celebrate working class voices in poetry and spoken word, inspired by Dead Ink's recent publication, *Essays on the Working Class*.

The show will be followed by a free discussion event with the artists in the bar from 5.30pm exploring the themes of Know Your Place.

Date Sunday 13 May

Time 4 – 5pm

Venue The Carriageworks Studio,
LS2 3AD

Price £7/5 concessions

The Sunday Practise

Featuring Roger Robinson

A festival edition of the monthly poetry and music club night at Sela Bar, featuring artists from across the weekend including Roger Robinson

Date Sunday 13 May

Time 8pm until late

Venue Sela Bar, LS1 6NU

Price FREE, just turn up

Frankie Vah

Luke Wright

We all want something to believe in. It's 1987 and Frankie Vah gorges on love, radical politics and indie stardom. But can he keep it all down?

Following the multi-award-winning *What I Learned From Johnny Bevan*, Luke Wright's second verse play deals with love, loss and belief, against a backdrop of skuzzy indie venues and 80s politics. Expect frenetic guitars, visceral verse, and a Morrissey-sized measure of heartache. Written and performed in deft verse by Fringe First & Stage Award for Acting Excellence winner Luke Wright.

Date Sunday 13 May

Time 7 – 8pm

Venue The Carriageworks Studio,
LS2 3AD

Price £13/11 concessions



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A day of spoken word & poetry activities for families at venues across Leeds

www.witc.org.uk



Saturday 12 May

Family Drop In

Free hands-on poetry and papercraft activities using words as inspiration.

Join artists Alison Smith and Sandra Flitcroft to play with words and create beautiful 3D poetry baubles

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 10am – 4pm
Venue The Carriageworks, LS2 3AD
Price FREE

Doodlemation

Animation Workshops with Fabric Lenny

Bring your words and ideas to life using iPads and animation apps with artist Fabric Lenny.

Let your imagination run wild! Children can attend unaccompanied but parents/carers must remain in the building.

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 10 – 11.30am, 12 – 1.30pm, 3 – 4.30pm
Venue The Carriageworks, LS2 3AD
Price £5
Age 8 – 12 years



Saturday 12 May

Workshop for Young Writers

A fun workshop with poet Kirsty Taylor for any 13-18 year olds who love writing. No experience needed and no need to book – just turn up! Refreshments included.

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 10.30am – 12.30pm
Venue Leeds Central Library, LS1 3AB
Price FREE, just turn up
Age 13 – 18 Years

Word Craft at Leeds Art Gallery

Write a poem inspired by the Gallery and its exhibitions, get crafty with words or make something to take away.

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 11am – 4pm
Venue Leeds Art Gallery, LS1 3AA
Price FREE, just turn up
Age All ages



Saturday 12 May

The Abnormal Poets of Christchurch **A Poetry Show with Song** **Ilkley Young Writers**

Christchurch has been invaded by a money-hungry pair of dream-crushers intent on disbanding the writing group. Revolution, rebellion, protest, call it what you will. When poetry meets real estate, Ilkley Young Writers fight to keep their group alive.

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 12.30 – 1.15pm
Venue The Carriageworks Studio,
LS2 3AD
Price FREE, just turn up



Spin **with Marv Radio, Adam** **Kammerlingmas and Jan Blake**

A playful, interactive family show with incredible rappers, poets and storytellers to send you spiralling into a poetry spin! Join internationally renowned storyteller Jan Blake, vocal force of nature beatboxer Marv Radio, and slam winning MC and spoken word artist Adam Kammerlingmas as they cook up new ways to play with words.

Date Saturday 12 May
Time 2 – 3pm
Venue Carriageworks main auditorium,
LS2 3AD
Price £7/5 concessions, £20 Family ticket
Age Suitable for 5+ and their families



35 YEARS
POETRY
PIONEERS

