

Headingley LitFest 2017

Tickets can be purchased in the following ways.

1. Box Office:

HEART, Bennett Road, Leeds LS6 3HN.

Open Monday to Saturday 8am to 11pm and closed on Sunday

On-line: (booking fee)

In person: from HEART reception - no booking fee.

By phone: 0113 275 4548 - by debit or credit card - no booking fee.

Tickets bought by phone for events at venues other than HEART must be picked up in person from HEART before the event.

Box office closing arrangements

Three hours before most events.

The night before for Sunday events.

The night before for events starting at 12 noon or earlier.

After the box office has closed tickets can only be purchased on the door.

PLEASE NOTE TICKETS CANNOT BE RESERVED VIA THE BOX OFFICE THEY MUST BE PAID FOR AT THE TIME OF BOOKING

2. On the door or direct from partners:

For many of our events tickets can be bought from our partners or on the door.

Please see the event description for details.

3. For free events:

Simply turn up.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OUR VENUES HAVE LIMITED AUDIENCE CAPACITY AND THAT WE CANNOT ADMIT PEOPLE ABOVE THAT CAPACITY

Latest online information at

www.headingleylitfest.org.uk

www.headingleylitfest.blogspot.com and at www.headingley.org

Thanks are due to Arts@Leeds, Leeds City Council, Leeds Community Foundation, Leeds Libraries, local councillors, North Leeds Life and West North West Management (LCC)



Headingley LitFest 2017

EDGE

Friday 10 February

A Cartoon History of Here

Ian McMillan and Tony Husband

Partnership event with Headingley Enterprise and Arts Centre (HEART)

Comedy, cartoonery, poetry and improv!

Created by tonight's audience with Yorkshire poet, broadcaster and comedian **Ian McMillan** and Cartoonist of the Year **Tony Husband**. A fast-flowing, rapid-rafting adventure in which two top funny men reflect upon local stories and legends. For audiences, 9 to 109. @IMcMillan

'Bloody Hell, the man's a genius!' Yorkshire Post

'Tony Husband is even funnier than me.' Griff Rhys Jones

www.ian-mcmillan.co.uk

www.tonyhusband.co.uk

7.00pm HEART Centre, Bennett Road



Tony Husband and Ian McMillan



Tickets £12.50

Monday 6 March

Dinner with Montalbano

Partnership Event with Salvo's Salumeria



Luca Zingaretti (Montalbano) and Andrea Camilleri

During the past three LitFests, the Salumeria has hosted highly successful dinners with some of the greats of Italian literature - Dante, Boccaccio and Petrarch. This time, we move on to a well-known character from modern times - the Sicilian detective Inspector Montalbano, played in television versions by Luca Zingaretti, pictured here with the man who wrote the novels - **Andrea Camilleri**. While working as a TV and stage director, he published the first of a long series of novels - *La forma dell'Acqua* (*The Shape of Water*) featuring the fractious Montalbano, who is part of the police force of Vigàta, an imaginary

Sicilian town. The series is written in Italian but with a substantial sprinkling of Sicilian phrases and grammar.

Montalbano's adventures are wildly popular in Italy, where fans often talk and write about what he loves to eat - he is very demanding. This makes him the ideal focus of an event devoted to food and literature. You can relish the cooking and listen to **Gigliola Sulis** and **Richard Wilcocks**, who will talk about Sicily and Camilleri's work, read extracts and draw attention to some of the featured menus.

7.00pm Salvo's Salumeria, Otley Road £15 from Salvo's Book by phone 0113 275 8877

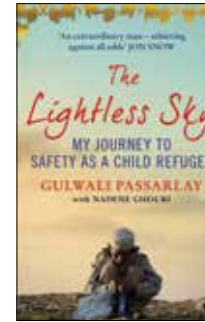
Or online: www.salvos.co.uk/salumeria-restaurant/reservations/

Tuesday 7 March

The Lightless Sky

Partnership event with Leeds Libraries Read Regional

'To risk my life had to mean something. Otherwise what was it all for?' **Gulwali Passarlay** was sent away from Afghanistan at the age of twelve, after his father was killed in a gun battle with the US army. Smuggled into Iran, Gulwali embarked on a twelve-month odyssey across Europe, spending time in prisons, suffering hunger, cruelty, and violence. Like so many of the migrants we hear about, he endured a terrifying, life-threatening journey on a tiny boat in the Mediterranean, braved the brutality of those who should care for children, and spent a desolate month in the camp at Calais. Somehow he survived, and made it to Britain, no longer an innocent child but still a young boy alone.



Gulwali Passarlay

Here in Britain he was fostered, went to a good school, worked hard and won a place at a top university. Gulwali was chosen to carry the Olympic torch in 2012. He wants to tell his story - to bring to life the plight of the thousands of men, women and children who risk their lives to leave behind the troubles of their homelands. Many die along the way, some are sent back to face imprisonment and possible death, some survive and make it here, to a country which offers them the chance of a life of freedom and opportunity. One boy's experience is the central story of our times. This memoir celebrates the triumph of courage and determination over adversity.

'An extraordinary man - achieving against all odds.' Jon Snow, Channel 4 News

7.15pm Headingley Library, North Lane

Free

Wednesday 8 March

I Am Alive (I Guess)

Poetry and music about the short walk from light to the edge of darkness - and back. **Schwa** is **Peter Spafford** on piano/vocals and **Richard Ormrod** on at least nine instruments, joined by singer **Jacqui Wicks**. Here they set to music poems by Elizabeth Bishop, Emily Dickinson, Anne Sexton, and Edna St. Vincent Millais, besprinkled with original text by Peter Spafford.



Richard Ormrod and Peter Spafford

Schwa's 'Threshold' was premiered at Headingley Litfest in 2015 and is touring this spring for the second time, funded by The Arts Council.

'Vivid lyricism and authentic vocals blended with fantastic eclectic arrangements.' Testament

7.30pm HEART Centre, Bennett Road

Tickets £5

Friday 10 March

Above Head Height



James Brown

This book is a must-have for anyone who has ever played and enjoyed amateur football. **James Brown** has been playing football since growing up in Headingley, attending Bennett Road School and playing football in the streets, woods and gardens around Estcourt Avenue. The sudden death of one of his long-standing team mates made James ponder the unique bond between men who meet each other once a week for years, but don't know any personal details beyond pitch prowess.

Five-a-Side football is where you play the beautiful game for love, not money. You play it for life and you play it everywhere. Your kit is damp and your legs are a leopard's back of bruises.

Shirts are often tight around the belly, with your hero's name plastered across your shoulder blades. The showers are too cold in winter and too hot in summer. Your used sports bag stays unpacked in the hall, and your water bottles are under the kitchen sink. The post-match warm down takes place in the pub. As does the match analysis. By contrast the warm up is non-existent. Your performance is patchy and maybe not what it used to be. But we all still think we played great.

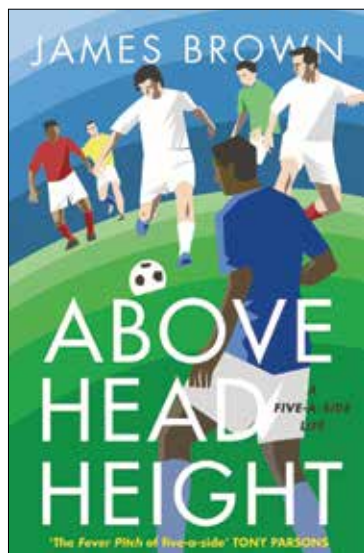
Five-a-Side is sporting Karaoke - a time and place to live out our dreams. This is a book for all of us - school mates, work colleagues, total strangers - bonded by the desire to blast one into the net from two feet away.

James Brown invented and edited *Loaded* magazine, next he edited *GQ*, then started his own publishing business. At the moment he runs a very successful web publishing magazine (*Sabotage Times*) and is a frequent contributor to television programmes and the broadsheets. Not to mention having two radio programmes: one on music, one on football.

He will be in conversation with Dave Simpson from *The Guardian*.

7.30pm New Headingley Club, St Michael's Road

Tickets £6



Saturday 11 March

Trio Literati: The Exceedingly Good Writings of Mr Kipling

A sparkling words-and-music entertainment on the works of Rudyard Kipling. As a highly successful journalist Kipling travelled widely across a world on the brink of change. He wrote compulsively all his life: 'my pen took charge and I, greatly admiring, watched it write for me far into the nights.' Well-loved stories and poems such as *The Jungle Book*, *The Man Who Would Be King* and *On the Road to Mandalay* are a mere fraction of his output - his war reports, playlets and science fiction - now virtually forgotten - are just as colourful. Prepare to be surprised!



Maggie Mash,
Richard Rastall and
Jane Oakshott

Below:
Eleanor Rastall

Musical duo **Eleanor Rastall** (soprano) and **Jonathan Drummond** (piano) add to the heady mix with settings of Kipling's own poems and popular songs from the Empire and beyond.

Maggie Mash, **Jane Oakshott** and **Richard Rastall** gave their first performance as *Trio Literati* in November 2003. Set up to do simple poetry readings, the group quickly started on the enchanting and slippery slope of hats and sound effects. They now offer a wide range of performance options, from pure poetry to full-scale dramatic works, often commissioned and scripted to fit a special occasion or place.

As performers, their backgrounds are varied - television, theatre, music - but they share a passion for words and a taste for comedy. Producing many very different shows since 2003, they have gained a reputation for energy, wit and style.

7.30pm New Headingley Club, St Michael's Road

Tickets £8



Monday 13 March

Strange Encounters: Paranoia and British Science Fiction Cinema

Partnership event with *Café Scientifique*

Robert Shail will explain, in an illustrated talk, how Science Fiction, whether in literature or cinema, has often been used as a vehicle to express contemporary anxieties. Alien encounters, rogue technology and dystopian futures are often projections of real fears about our current predicaments. This was never more the case than in the 1950s and 1960s when a cycle of American science fiction films including *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956) and *Them!*



(1954) gave voice to Cold War anxieties and the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

These films are well known but Professor Shail's talk will focus on the more neglected area of British science fiction cinema of the same period. Key films include the John Wyndham adaptations *Village of the Damned* (1960) and *The Day of the Triffids* (1962), and the recently revived *The Day the Earth Caught Fire* (1961). These films bring a peculiarly British quality to the genre, with strange encounters taking place against the backdrop of sleepy villages and cosy suburbs.

Robert Shail is Professor of Film and Director of Research in the School of Film, Music and Performing Arts at Leeds Beckett University. He has published widely on postwar British cinema and his latest book is *The Children's Film Foundation: History and Legacy* (Palgrave/ British Film Institute).

7.30pm New Headingley Club, St Michael's Road

Tickets £3 only on the door

Tuesday 14 March

The Grump

Partnership event with *Films at HEART*

The Grump (Finnish: *Mielensäpahoittaja*) is a 2014 Finnish comedy film directed by Dome Karukoski, in which the main character is The Grump, a cranky old man, created by the Finnish author Tuomas Kyrö. The film is based on a 2014 novel by Kyrö, the third volume by the author, in which this character appears.



The film stars Antti Litja as Mielensäpahoittaja a.k.a. the Grump, Petra Frey, Mari Perankoski, and Iikka Forss. The film tells the story about a stubbornly traditional eighty-year-old farmer - whose social attitudes verge on the prehistoric - raises hell when he is forced to move in with his miserable, city-dwelling son and successful daughter-in-law.

8.00pm HEART Centre, Bennett Road

Tickets only on the door
£6/£5 concessions/£4 members

Wednesday 15 March

A Yorkshire Tragedy: The Rise and Fall of a Sporting Powerhouse

Anthony Clavane will read from his recently-launched book and will be in conversation with Tony Collins, Professor of Sports History at De Montfort University, whose latest book *The Oval World* (featured in last year's LitFest) won the 2016 Aberdare Prize for sports history book of the year.



1972: Billy Bremner with Leeds United after winning the FA Cup

For some people, writes Anthony Clavane, Old Yorkshire “stood for a pre-80s, prelapsarian idyll; to others an anachronistic, almost vaudevillian version of the class struggle. The truth is, as always, somewhere in between.” Coming down on the side of the idyll, he argues that something has been missing from British sport. It has lost its heart and soul - its Yorkshire-ness - which possibly amounts to the same thing.

A Yorkshire Tragedy is the final part of Anthony Clavane's triptych that examines belonging, identity and the rise and fall of tightly knit sporting communities through the prism of the author's own personal experience.

'If you want to know how it feels to be left behind, if you want to know how it feels to be forgotten, if you want to know how it feels to be heartbroken, then read this book'
David Peace

7.15pm Headingley Library, North Lane

Tickets £4

Thursday 16 March

Streets of Darkness

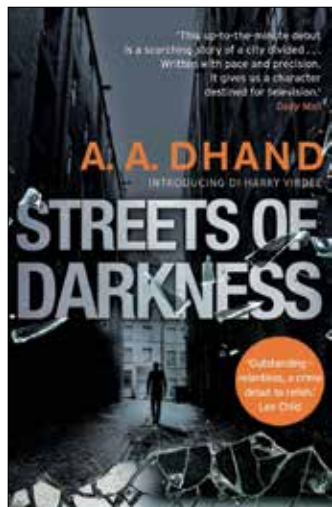
Amit Dhand is a pharmacist who works in Headingley. He is also now known as an accomplished crime writer. This is his first Detective Harry Virdee novel, and it has been described as 'Luther meets The Wire'.

The sky over Bradford is heavy with foreboding. It always is. But this morning it has reason to be - this morning a body has been found. And it's not just any body. Detective Harry Virdee should be at home with his wife. Impending fatherhood should be all he can think about but he's been suspended from work just as the biggest case of the year lands on what would have been his desk. He can't keep himself away.



Determined to restore his reputation, Harry is obliged to take to the shadows in search of notorious ex-convict and prime suspect, Lucas Dwight. But as the motivations of the murder threaten to tip an already unstable city into riotous anarchy, Harry finds his preconceptions turned on their head as he discovers what it's like to be on the other side of the law...

Amit will read from his work and will be in conversation with poet James Nash.



- Selected for **WORLD BOOK NIGHT 2017**
- Selected for **Read Regional 2017**
- Selected by **Phil Williams @BBCRadio5live** in his top 3 books of the year?
- **TV rights sold**

'A tense slice of neo-noir that has won Dhand comparisons to both BBC drama Luther and HBO's The Wire.' Observer

'A sombre, gritty race through the unsettling underbelly of the city... compelling and unflinching.' Yorkshire Post

'Dhand's Streets of Darkness are in Bradford and they sure are dark... The blood count is high but the novel deserves attention for its sheer inventiveness and unbridled energy.' The Times

7.15pm Headingley Library, North Lane

Tickets £4

Friday 17 March

Cabaret Thirty



Do you still love to tread the boards? Love open mic events? If you are under thirty, or okay if you *look* under thirty, this is your chance to perform. It could be poetry, or song, or stand-up comedy, in a group or on your own. If you think you've got it, then flaunt it! At the last LitFest, there was an astonishing range of acts for this wildly popular event.

There's no age limit for the audience. Get in touch now to make sure you are on the list if you want to perform.

Contact wilcocks@ntlworld.com with all the details.

7.30pm HEART Centre, Bennett Road

Under 18s free, adults £5

Saturday 18 March

Pitch and Pen

Ever wondered whether that idea you have for a novel, or a poetry or short story collection could fly?

Would you like the chance to pitch to a team of publishing industry professionals?

You've seen Dragons' Den, so now Headingley Litfest invites you to pitch your ideas in front of an audience and a panel of professional writers and publishers.

Not only is this a great chance to see whether your idea is sound, it also gives you a chance to see what the competition is like out there. What makes a great idea stand out from the pile?

The winning pitcher(s) will be invited to submit a synopsis and sample of their work for consideration by either Valley Press based in Scarborough, or Hebden Bridge based Bluemoose Books. Regardless of whether a publishing contract is offered, feedback will be provided on the submission package.

The panel of judges will be made up of:

- **Kevin Duffy** - Bluemoose Books
- **Jamie McGarry** - Valley Press
- **Alison Taft** - Novelist and Editor for Cornerstones Literary Consultancy

Places to pitch are limited. For further details and to apply to pitch please email LitFestpitchnpen@gmail.com

4.00pm - 6.00pm New Headingley Club St Michael's Road

£5 to pitch £2 to attend



Bluemoose Books is an independent publisher based in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. Kevin and Hetha Duffy started Bluemoose in 2006 and as a 'family' of readers and writers their aim is to publish cracking stories that engage and inspire.



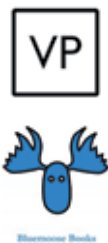
Valley Press is an independent publishing house based in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, UK. Established in 2008, their mission is to bring the best new poetry, fiction and non-fiction to bookshelves and e-readers around the world.



Saturday 18 March

Yorkshire Anthology, Tainted Love and East Coast Story

A Valley Press and Bluemoose Books double bill



Poetry Book launch

Valley Press launch their long-awaited *Yorkshire Anthology*, for which poets around the world were asked to write on any subject or topic, while keeping some connection with the county of Yorkshire, perhaps creating the most eclectic book about Yorkshire ever pieced together. There will be readings from contributors and discussion with the editors, including Jamie McGarry.



Tainted Love and East Coast Story by Anna Chilvers

Anna will be talking about her latest novel *Tainted Love* and about her work in progress *East Coast Story*.

Tainted Love (published by Bluemoose Books) is a modern gothic tale of how old stories can unravel people's lives. Secrets and stones have settled in Hawden where everything stays as it is; the past is hidden, or rewritten. Lauren lives with her dad and Mr Lion after her mother left her when she was three months old. Her boyfriend Peter is struggling with his identity. When Meg and her son Richard arrive, both dangerously attractive, and Ali too, angry and on the run from drug dealers, old stories resurface, creating new tensions. After seventeen years Lauren's mother comes back into her life and nothing is quite what it seems any more but love however tainted can sometimes heal.

East Coast Story: novel in progress

In 657AD St. Etheldreda, a princess of Anglia and Queen of Northumbria, fled from St Abbs in Scotland to Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire, a journey of around five hundred miles. In 2015, funded by the Arts Council, Anna followed in her footsteps and walked the same distance in five stages, as inspirational research for her novel.

Anna is a writer, a poet, a runner, a long distance walker, a mother, a teacher and a reader. Her first novel, *Falling Through Clouds*, was published by Bluemoose in 2010. She has also published a collection of short stories, *Legging It* (Pennine Prospects, 2012) and her play, *The Room* was performed in the Hebden Bridge Arts Festival 2013. She lives in Hebden Bridge with her family and her dog, Bet, and two cats.

www.annachilvers.co.uk

7.30pm New Headingley Club, St Michael's Road

Tickets £4

Sunday 19 March

The Butcher Boy

Partnership event with Irish Arts Foundation and Hyde Park Picture House



Ireland, 1962. In a remote village, 12-year-old Francie Brady escapes his alcoholic father, Benny and mentally unstable mother, Annie, by retreating into a haze of daydreams, relying on his 'blood brother' Joe as his sole link to the outside world.

Adapted from Patrick McCabe's 1992 novel of the same name *The Butcher Boy* strikingly explores the world of a young boy existing in the margins of society, dancing along the edge of the real and unreal, torn into dangerous territory by anger and a desire for revenge.

Directed by Neil Jordan, Produced by Redmond Morris and Stephen Woolley. Screenplay by Patrick McCabe and Neil Jordan. The film won the Silver Bear for Best Director at the 48th Berlin International Film Festival.

3.30pm Hyde Park Picture House

Tickets £7.00/£5.50 concessions
From: www.hydeparkpicturehouse.co.uk

Tuesday 21 March

Creative Edge

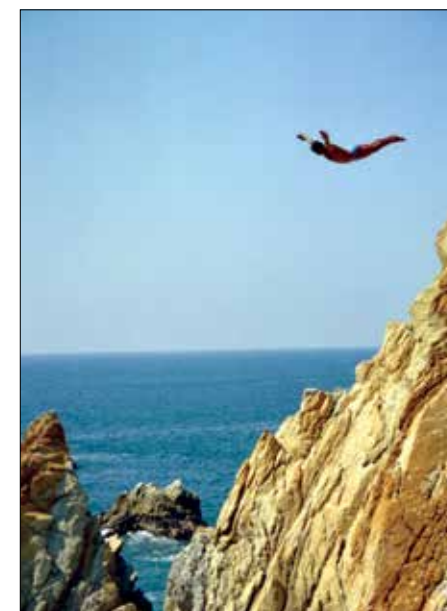
Partnership event with local creative writing groups

Sponsored by Workers Education Association

Once again we are delighted to welcome two local groups of creative writers - from Headingley and from the Osmondthorpe Hub - to take the plunge and share their work with us. Dark tales? Wry poems? A drama? Short stories with a twist? Or just an entertaining excerpt from life writing? An eclectic selection of pieces to fascinate, amuse or arouse your curiosity.

11.00am - 1.00pm HEART Centre,
Bennett Road

Free - donations invited for refreshments



Wednesday 22 March

LitQuiz

Partnership event with Headingley Enterprise and Arts Centre (HEART)

Do you know your Dickens from your Dostoevsky or your Angela Carter from your Raymond Carver? Then come along and test your knowledge of all things relating to books. HEART Centre Manager Mike will be the Quizmaster par excellence. Be prepared for his demon picture rounds! There will also be a raffle. What's not to like?

8.00pm HEART Centre, Bennett Road

£1 per person - max of 5 in team - pay at the event All proceeds to 'Support HEART'



Friday 24 March

Mark Connors at The Chemic

Partnership event with Word Club



Join Mark Connors and friends for a Word Club Special at The Chemic Tavern. Mark will be launching his first full length poetry collection, *Nothing is Meant to be Broken*, published by Stairwell Books. Open mic slots will be available. Mark Connors is a widely published poet who won the Ilkley Literature Festival Open Mic Competition in both 2014 and 2015. His debut pamphlet, *Life is a Long Song* (OWF Press, 2015) and debut novel, *Stickleback* (Armley Press, 2016) are both now in their second editions. Mark runs Word Club and performs and comperes regularly at literature festivals.

7.30pm The Chemic Tavern, 9 Johnston St, Leeds LS6 2NG

Free

Saturday 25 March

In conversation with Amanda Owen



Amanda Owen (41 years old) has been seen by millions on ITV's *The Dales* and in Ben Fogle's *New Lives in the Wild* and is currently appearing on ITV1's *Countrywise*. She runs a two thousand acre hill farm in Swaledale in North Yorkshire, fifty miles from the nearest large town. She is a full time shepherdess tending a thousand sheep and has nine children with farmer husband Clive. Her life is dominated by the seasons, feeding, clipping, dipping, herding, rescuing and lambing her flock in one of the most remotely beautiful yet tough spots in the country.

Amanda is a working mother with nine children between the ages of 4 months and 16 years and amazingly has never taken maternity leave. As soon as she returns from hospital Amanda simply straps her new born onto her front in a waterproof onesie and heads back out to the hills to tend her sheep, with two toddlers trailing behind. Each of her nine children has

been brought up this way, outside in the fresh air all day without many of the trappings of modern parenthood, waking and sleeping with the rhythm of the farm.

In *A Year in the Life of the Yorkshire Shepherdess* the reader joins Amanda as she describes the age-old cycles of a farming year and the constant challenges the family faces: from being cut off in winter to tending their flock on some of the country's highest, wildest moors - land so inaccessible that in places it can only be reached on foot.

Writing with her trademark warmth and humour, Amanda tells us how her nine-year-old son Miles got his first flock, Reuben took up the flugelhorn and she herself gave birth to a new baby girl. She shares the touching stories of an epic two-day journey taken by a ewe determined to find her lamb and of Queenie, an ageing and neglected horse who comes to live at the farm. Meanwhile, her husband Clive is almost arrested on a midnight stakeout to catch a sheep-worrying dog and becomes the object of affection for a randy young bull.

Amanda will read from her book and will be in conversation.

2.30pm New Headingley Club, St Michael's Road

Tickets £8 Tea and cakes available



Sunday 26 March

On the edge of the stage with Dave Robertson

David has been a stalwart of the LitFest since its inception in 2008, when he played Arthur Ransome in Stuart Fortey's *Duffers* and Captain Speedy in Peter Spafford's *I was a Stranger* in a double bill called *Cast Adrift*. In subsequent years, he was Shakespeare in Paul Priest's *Sonnets*; in *Heading Home* he was Frank, the bookseller in 84, Charing Cross Road, Herbert Read in the autobiographical, mystical *Moon's Farm* and, a year later, Lord Caversham in Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*. The following year he played Peter in Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story* and a wealth of Welsh characters in *Under Milk Wood*.

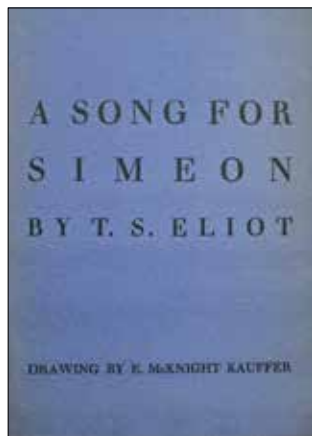


In 2013 he directed *Straight from the Heart*, Stuart Fortey's play commissioned for Trio Literati, and also *Literary Lovers*, with two of the Trio playing Ellen Terry and Mrs Patrick Campbell, and David as the twice-smitten Shaw. 2014 brought on *Echoes of War*, portraying doomed poets Wilfred Owen and Edward Thomas, with David directing Fortey's *On Scarborough Front* and Spafford's *The Edge of the Forest*. And so on to Back-to-Back Beckett with David solo-performing *From an Abandoned Work* and *Krapp's Last Tape*.

Ducking out of 2016, David makes up for it this year with a stash of theatrical retrospections, blunders best forgotten and assorted favourite speeches from Irish chicanery to Ionesco, Shakespeare, Pinter and beyond. The wonderful Retrolettes will be helping out on the lighter side.

8.00pm New Headingley Club, St Michael's Road

Tickets £5



A 1928 cover

Wednesday 17 May

Faber and Faber - Its Designs and History

Partnership event with Leeds Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Tony Faber will give an illustrated lecture on one of London's most important literary publishing houses - Faber and Faber, founded in 1925. Part of its reputation relates to the editorial team that Geoffrey Faber and his successors built around them - TS Eliot was famously an early recruit - but a large part is also due to the firm's insistence on good design and illustration. This lecture, peppered with personal insight and anecdote, traces the history of Faber and Faber through its illustrations, covers and designs.

The speaker has written two works of narrative history, *Stradivarius and Fabergé's Eggs*, published by Macmillan in

the UK and Random House in the US, and given lectures associated with these two subjects at venues including The Victoria and Albert Museum, Bath Theatre, The Library of Congress and the Huntington Library, as well as a number of literary festivals. His career began with Natural Sciences at Cambridge and has been through investment banking, management consulting and five years as managing director of the publishing company founded by his grandfather, Faber and Faber, where he remains on the board. Is also non-executive Chairman of its sister company, Faber Music, a trustee of Yale University Press (UK) and a director of the Authors Licensing and Collecting Society.

The lecture starts at 2pm but you are asked to arrive a little earlier and be in your seat by 1.50pm. Sandwiches and tea / coffee £4 - £5.00 can be purchased if required - available from 12.30 pm.

Free - Places are limited and will be available on a first come first served basis. To book please email membership@leedsdfas.org.uk quoting 'LitFest free place'

Castle Grove Masonic Hall

Castle Grove Drive, Moor Road, Leeds LS6 4BP



Headingley LitFest is indebted once again to have the support of the local councillors and others on the Inner and Outer North West Leeds area management committees to fund their work with a wide range of local schools. Our local councillors have been consistent supporters of the interventions we make in the schools in our 'patch'.

The grants support the work with primary and secondary school groups to develop confidence in writing and presentation through poetry, spoken word and short stories. Each young poet gets to perform their work and some have their original work included in a book or e-book as a further legacy of their work. Our work in schools starts in the late autumn and runs through the winter to early spring, so it is a large commitment from our volunteers and our poets. However, we are all passionate that developing original writing, using poetry as a genre, encourages a love of words, a curiosity about poetry and literature and an increased self-confidence in both writing and performing.

This year we have commissioned work with professional poets Malika Booker, Khadijah Ibrahim, James Nash and Rommi Smith. Schools in our 2016/17 primary programme have been: Brudenell, Quarry Mount, Shire Oak, Spring Bank and Weetwood. We have still to complete work with St Chad's. We have also worked with Leeds City Academy and Ralph Thoresby and are working now with Lawnswood.

We are also working once again with the disabled writers from the Osmondthorpe Hub, in partnership with some of the Headingley creative writers, both WEA groups and we are delighted that the WEA is sponsoring the event this year.

The LitFest has been organised this year by the following volunteers - Sally Bavage, Sheila Chapman, Mary Francis, Rachel Harkess, Doug Sandle and Richard Wilcocks.