Off the Shelf 15-31 October 2021

Celebrating books, words, ideas and our 30th Edition!

Welcome to the festival programme that comes with heartfelt thanks to all of our partners and friends who have supported us over the past year. It has been a difficult time, but books, reading, ideas and conversations are at the core of what we do and our 30th edition is a time for us to celebrate our past, present and future with uplifting and thought-provoking events.

Some of the festival activity will be online and we are delighted to be bringing you live events in real venues with the chance to hear some wonderful speakers in person.

We will launch ticket sales on Monday 6th September. Please see the festival website at offtheshelf.org.uk for full event details and how to book.

We look forward to seeing you!

Off the Shelf team

For events in venues see: pages 3-10

For online events see: pages 11-15

COVID-19 Information

At the time of writing we are anticipating that venues will remain open and live events will be operating much as they did before the pandemic. We will be selling venue tickets at full capacity. We will follow Government guidance as it is announced and share any information that changes e.g. about social distancing and mask wearing.
Biography of a Fly — the Poster Trail
15-31 October

Off the Shelf is excited to bring you this tale of a fly from Jaap Robben, split across 30 posters around Sheffield city centre. Head off on a self-led walk to see the story unfold chapter by chapter.

Age Guidance 12+

Part of New Dutch Writing Supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

Tickets: Free
Various locations

Fri 15 Oct, 6pm
Alexa, What Is There To Know About Love? — Brian Bilston
Brian Bilston’s new collection looks at love from caveman days to the internet era, first dates to love in old age. These verses are warm, witty, daft and deftly clever.

Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Fri 15 Oct, 7.30pm
How to Stop Fascism — Paul Mason
Paul Mason explores the threat of fascism riding to power on the back of modern-day regimes. He looks at the history of fascism in the 1920s/1930s and how networks and social media are feeding its growth now.

Tickets: £10/£8
Octagon

Sat 16 Oct, 11am
Stories from Sheffield General Cemetery — Laura Alston
An illustrated talk revealing some hidden histories of artists and artistes buried in the General Cemetery. A fascinating glimpse of the art and culture scene in Victorian and Edwardian Sheffield.

Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Sat 16 Oct, 1pm
Summer Brother — Jaap Robben
Dutch writer Jaap Robben talks about his acclaimed work including Summer Brother (longlisted for the International Booker Prize) and Biography of a Fly.

Part of New Dutch Writing Supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

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See offtheshelf.org.uk full event details and how to book
Fiction Day

Sun 17 Oct

11am
The Steel Girls
– Michelle Rawlins

1pm
Ingrid Persaud – Love After Love & Deepa Anappara – Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line

3pm
Sunjeev Sahota – China Room & Conor O’Callaghan – We Are Not in the World

5pm
Monique Roffey – The Mermaid of Black Conch & Emma Stonex – The Lamplighters

Sat 16 Oct, 3pm
A Useful History of Britain – Professor Michael Braddick
This book takes an unconventional look at British history, exploring how people in the past used political power to get things done and how history can speak directly to current political debates.
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Sat 16 Oct, 6pm
A Narrow Door – Joanne Harris
An exhilarating psychological thriller from award winning author Joanne Harris. Joanne’s best selling novels include Chocolat, Blackberry Wine and Different Class.
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Sat 16 Oct, 8pm
Bunnyman: A Memoir – Will Sergeant
Guitarist and core member of Echo and the Bunnymen, Will Sergeant explores the world that shaped him and his band into the enigmatic force that became post-punk royalty.
Tickets: £8/£6
Firth Hall

Sun 17 Oct, 1pm
Forecast: A Diary of the Lost Seasons – Joe Shute
A fascinating look at the history, folklore and mythology associated with the weather. In this illustrated talk Joe shows how the seasons are warping, looking particularly at changes in the Peak District.
Celebrating 70 years of the Peak District National Park
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Sun 17 Oct, 3pm
Dear Sister – Ubah Cristina Ali Farah and Guests
Writers, including Helen Mort, Debjani Chatterjee and Warda Yassin celebrate the 100th anniversary of English Pen with Dear Sister, letters to inspirational women in their lives.
Supported by a National Lottery Project Grant from Arts Council England
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

See offtheshelf.org.uk full event details and how to book
Sun 17 Oct, 5pm
Peak Poetry – David Wilson and James Caruth
David Wilson’s poetry collection *The Equilibrium* celebrates climbing in all its forms. James Caruth’s *Speechless at Inch* is a hymn to nature, people and places including the Peak District.
Celebrating 70 years of the Peak District National Park
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Mon 18 Oct, 7.30pm
Novel Slam
It’s big, it’s back and it’s live on stage. Bring a 1 minute pitch and a 3 minute extract from your work and compete for the title of Novel Slam champion. Info at www.sheffieldnovelists.wordpress.com
Organised by Sheffield Novelists in association with Off the Shelf
Tickets: £10 participants/£5 audience members from www.beverleywrites.com/workshops-and-courses/novel-slam
Creative Lounge

Mon 18 Oct, 7.30pm
Go Big: How To Fix Our World – Ed Miliband
Ed Miliband MP shows that practical ways do exist for tackling everything from inequality to the climate crisis if we have the courage to think big. It’s our job to write the future. *Go Big* shows us how.

In Partnership with CAST
Tickets: £12 / £8 from CAST box office
CAST Doncaster

Sun 17 Oct, 7.30 pm
I Belong Here – Anita Sethi
On a journey through The Pennines, Anita Sethi became the victim of a race attack. Through walking, she shows this is her land too and reflects upon themes of identity, place and belonging.
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Short Story Dispenser
Mon 18 – Sun 31 Oct
The Short Story Dispensers offer short stories and poems on different themes. Simply select how long you would like your story to be and be prepared to be surprised.
Organised by Sheffield Hallam University in partnership with Sheffield Museums and Sheffield Libraries
Tickets: Free – no need to book
Millennium Gallery and Sheffield Central Library

See offtheshelf.org.uk full event details and how to book
Tues 19 Oct, 6pm
**The Pioneering Life of Mary Wortley Montagu**— Jo Willett
An illustrated talk on the unconventional life of a remarkable woman— a scientific campaigner, early feminist, writer and traveller who mixed with the greatest politicians, writers, artists and thinkers of her day.
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Tues 19 Oct, 7.30pm
**Manifesto**— Bernardine Evaristo
In *MANIFESTO* Bernardine Evaristo offers insights into the nature of race, class, feminism, sexuality and ageing in modern Britain. It's a manifesto for anyone who has ever stood on the margins.
Tickets: £13/£10
Crucible Theatre

Wed 20 Oct, 6.30pm
**Poetry and Covid-19**
Anthony Caleshu, Rory Waterman, David Herd, Zoë Skoulding and Harriet Tarlo read work from a poetry anthology responding to the pandemic.
Organised by Sheffield Hallam University
Performance Lab and live-streamed from venue

Weds 20 Oct, 7pm
**Hachette Opening the Book Panel Event**— Chaired by Sarah Shaffi
A panel of publishing industry professionals and authors aim to demystify publishing to make it more transparent and accessible to under-represented groups. Join the conversation and welcome Hachette to their new Sheffield office.
Tickets: £7/£5
Creative Lounge

Weds 20 Oct, 7.30pm
**The Queer Bible**— Jack Guinness
Jack Guinness’s beautiful, illustrated book *The Queer Bible* celebrates queer culture for LGBTQI+ community and its allies. As Jack puts it ‘we stand on the shoulders of giants – now we learn their names.’
Age Guidance 14+
Tickets: £8/£6
Firth Hall
Weds 20 Oct, 8.30pm
And Other Stories – 10 Years of Publishing Party
Celebrate a publishing powerhouse. Plus short readings from current books and authors including Sammy Wright, Mona Arshi, James Attlee, Tice Cin and Sheffielder Rachel Genn.
Age Guidance 16+
Pay bar.
Tickets: Free – No need to book
Creative Lounge

Thurs 21 Oct, 7.30pm
The Youth Word Up! – Young Poets & Joelle Taylor
Celebrating 10 Years of The Youth Word Up! Local young people perform pieces written during workshops with HIVE. They are joined by poet Joelle Taylor.
Age Guidance 13+
Tickets: Free – places must be booked
Venue tbc

Thurs 21 Oct, 12.30-1.30pm
Hidden Voices in Sheffield Archives – Désirée Reynolds & Cheryl Bailey
Désirée Reynolds is Writer in Residence in Sheffield Archives, discovering Black and marginalised voices. This illustrated talk reveals some of the hidden histories and important discoveries that have been found.
Supported by University of Sheffield
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Thurs 21 Oct, 6pm
Russ Thomas & Stephen Booth
Nighthawking is the new novel from Russ Thomas – Sheffield based, best-selling author of Firewatching. Stephen Booth is an award winning author and creator of Derbyshire police detectives Cooper and Fry.
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Fri 22 Oct, 7.30pm
Poetry Live!
Join us at Rotherham Civic Theatre for a stellar line up of poetry talent. Performers include young poets from HIVE South Yorkshire, Safia Khan, Caroline Bird and Otis Mensah. Host for the evening is Sile Sibanda.
In Partnership with Rotherham Civic Theatre
Tickets: £8/£5
Rotherham Civic Theatre
Poetry Live Workshop for 14-19 year olds on Wednesday 20 October (see website).

Sat 23 Oct, 7.30pm
Longhand – Andy Hamilton
Comedy legend, writer, performer and director Andy Hamilton talks about new novel LONGHAND, which was entirely handwritten. The novel combines tragedy, comedy, mystery, murder and a talking fish.
Tickets: £12/£10
Firth Hall

Sun 24 Oct, 11am
More Ancient Suburbs of Sheffield – David Templeman
Step back in time with David Templeman. This richly illustrated local history talk looks at Ecclesall, Dore, historic Handsworth and Stannington and Bradfield in the Loxley and Rivelin valleys.
Tickets: £8/£6
Firth Hall

See offtheshelf.org.uk full event details and how to book
Sun 24 Oct, 1pm
Misbehaving – Jenny Fortune
Jenny Fortune is joined by Sue Finch, Jane Grant, Jo Robinson and Sarah Wilson in a talk about the 1970 protests at the Miss World contest at the Royal Albert Hall. This event tells the story of the protesters.
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Sun 24 Oct, 3pm
Lowry’s Lamps – Richard Mayson
An illustrated exploration of some of Lowry’s works, highlighting his use of lamps and street furniture in his compositions. Mayson compares the paintings to real Salford and Manchester streets from 1916 to the 1970s.
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Sun 24 Oct, 6pm
People’s Republic of South Yorkshire – Helen Jackson
Former Labour MP Helen Jackson looks back at Sheffield at a significant time in its history 1970-1992. She is joined by Isabella Stone, Cathy Burke and Roz Wollen to discuss how class solidarity translated into radical local initiatives.
Tickets: £8/£6
Firth Hall

Mon 25 Oct, 5pm
Structure and Synthesis – Mark Fell
Mark Fell is a pioneering artist known for his installations, performances and solo musical projects. Structure and Synthesis is a direct engagement with Fell’s original thinking and his provocations in regard to ‘experimental’ music.

In partnership with Rotherham MBC
Tickets: Free, places must be booked
Live and Live Streamed
Clifton Park Museum, Clifton Lane, Rotherham, S65 2AA

Mon 25 Oct, 7pm
Sex: Lessons From History – Dr Fern Riddell
A powerful, inclusive and entertaining new cultural history of sex. Dr Fern Riddell takes us on an illuminating journey to uncover the sexual lives of our ancestors from flirtation to orgasm and everything in between.
Age Guidance 16+
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Tues 26 Oct, 1pm and 3pm
Izzy Gizmo
Izzy Gizmo by Pip Jones is brought to life in this wonderful musical version performed by Ensemble 360 and Polly Ives. Featuring original music including pots, pans, whistles and household items!
In partnership with The Civic Barnsley
Age guidance: 3-7
Tickets: £9/£6
The Civic Barnsley
Weds 27 Oct, 7.30pm
Where Are The Women? - Sara Sheridan, Professor Vanessa Toulmin & Valerie Bayliss
A guidebook to an alternative Scotland where streets, buildings and statues are dedicated to real women, telling their often unknown stories. Can we imagine an alternative Sheffield?
Tickets: £8/£6
Firth Hall

Thurs 28 Oct, 7pm
The Book of Trespass – Nick Hayes
Nick Hayes takes an expansive journey into the thousands of square miles of rivers, woodland, lakes and meadows that are blocked from public access. He offers a passionate defence of the right to access the natural world.
Tickets: £8/£6
Millennium Gallery

Fri 29 Oct, 7.30pm
What Am I Bid? – Philip Serrell
Antiques expert Philip Serrell is a familiar face on BBC TV programmes including Bargain Hunt and Flog It! This entertaining memoir includes dodgy cars, fakes in the saleroom, angry livestock, mangled silverware and more.
Tickets: £8/£6
Firth Hall

Black Women Write Now – curated by Désirée Reynolds
Sat 30 Oct
11am
Responding to the Poetry of Jean ‘Binta’ Breeze
1pm
Leone Ross – One Sky Blue Day
3pm
Patrice Lawrence – Splinters of Sunshine
5pm
Nadifa Mohamed – The Fortune Men
Tickets: £6/£5 buy any 2 Black Women Write Now events for £10/£8
Millennium Gallery

See offtheshelf.org.uk full event details and how to book
Sat 30 Oct, 3pm
The David Blunkett Archive
A conversation between Lord Blunkett, former Home Secretary and Sheffield MP for 28 years, and Professor Matthew Flinders. It explores the David Blunkett Archive now held in the University of Sheffield Library.
Tickets: £8/£6
Firth Hall

Sat 30 Oct, 11am and 1.30pm
Awakenings – A Storytelling Performance for Families
A fun and imaginative performance based on a traditional folk tale. Featuring puppets created by Babbling Vagabonds and performed by Sheffield Hallam University Acting & Performance students.
Organised by Sheffield Hallam University in partnership with Sheffield Theatres
Tickets: Free – places must be booked
Crucible Studio Theatre

Sun 31 Oct, 3pm
Spider Woman: A Life – Lady Hale
Lady Hale was the first woman and youngest person to be appointed to the Law Commission, President of the Supreme Court and a pioneering reformer. This is the remarkable story of a truly inspirational woman.
Tickets: £8/£6
Firth Hall

Sun 31 Oct, 5pm
Simon Armitage and 70 Notices
Poet Laureate Simon Armitage performs a newly commissioned piece in celebration of the Peak District National Park’s 70th anniversary. This varied poetry reading will include 70 Notices, written to Kinder Scout by Barnsley musician, Lyndon Scarfe.
Celebrating 70 years of the Peak District National Park
Tickets £13/£10
Crucible Theatre

Sun 31 Oct, 7.30pm
This Much Is True – Miriam Margolyes
BAFTA-winning veteran of stage and screen, Miriam Margoyles OBE, unveils her amazing, warm, witty and long-awaited life story. This Much Is True is as clever, warm, funny, surprising and honest as its inimitable author.
Tickets £13/£10
Crucible Theatre

See offtheshelf.org.uk full event details and how to book
Online events

Online events are FREE to view. Please donate if you can via the website to help us keep great content available for everyone.

You do not need to book for these, simply click on the link that will appear from 30 minutes before the start time online.

Some online events will be available to watch or listen again for some time; please see the website copy for details.

Sat 16 Oct, 5pm
New Poets Prize – Poetry Reading
Introducing the winners of this year’s Poetry Business New Poets Prize – Hannah Hodgson, Safia Khan, Charlotte Knight and Karl Knights.

Tickets: Free – Pre-recorded

Mon 18 Oct, 6pm
How the One Armed Sister Sweeps Her House – Cherie Jones
This extraordinary debut novel, shortlisted for the Women’s Prize for Fiction 2021, is set in Barbados. Intricately plotted, atmospheric and hard hitting this is a tale of loss and trauma love and survival.

Tickets: Free – Pre-recorded

Wed 27 Oct
An Un/familiar space: Autoethnographic Family Research – Dr Sabine Little & Toby Little

Thurs 28 Oct
Sci-Art: The Very Big and the Very Small – Dr Andrew Parnell and Paul Evans

Talks by academics from the University of Sheffield
Pre-recorded films & Podcasts
Free to watch or listen

See offtheshelf.org.uk full event details and how to book
Tuesday 19 Oct, 6pm

**Tom Stoppard: A Life**
- Hermione Lee

A brilliant, major biography of our greatest living playwright by one of the leading literary biographers, Hermione Lee. Hermione will be in conversation with actor Samuel West.

*Tickets: Free*

*In conversation Live on-line*

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Tuesday 19 Oct, 7pm

**Northern Gravy**

Northern Gravy showcase new work and discuss how they aim to give courage to those who want to try their hand at writing. Northern Gravy was created by Ralph Dartford, Nick Jones and Jonny Syer.

*Organised by Sheffield Hallam University*

*Tickets: Free — Pre-recorded film*

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Thursday 21 Oct, 6.30pm

**How to... Write Poetry**
- Chris Jones

A creative writing workshop looking at different ways of writing poems using a range of prompts and materials. There will be a focus on creating first drafts and revising the words on the page.

*Organised by Sheffield Hallam University*

*Tickets: Free*

*Live Zoom Workshop*

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Thursday 21 Oct, 8pm

**Swimming Wild Waters**
- Susanne Masters

A wildlife lover or outdoor swimmer’s map of watery wildlife and an invitation to dip into the aquatic world. This illustrated talk gives a fabulous insight into the world beneath the surface.

*Tickets: Free to View — Pre recorded*

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Friday 22 Oct, 6pm

**Building the Crucible**
- Edward George

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the building of The Crucible Theatre, Ashley Barnes, speaks to Edward George about his book, *Stirring Up Sheffield; The Battle to Build the Crucible*.

*Organised by Sheffield Hallam University*

*Tickets: Free — Podcast*
Sat 23 Oct, 11am
Loxley: Wanderings in a Curious Valley – Peter Machan
In this illustrated talk, Peter Machan explores the landscapes, historical characters, dramatic events, unusual occupations, perplexing ruins, unique folk tales and traditions that make the Loxley Valley so fascinating.
Tickets: Free – Pre-recorded

Sun 24 Oct, 4pm
Whose (Hi)story, Whose Words? – Tessa Leuwsha, David McKay, Henriette Louwerse
This event explores the importance of re-writing Dutch colonial stories from new perspectives and the art of translating them.
Part of New Dutch Writing Supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

Mon 25 Oct, 6pm
Writing for the Crucible Stage – Chris Bush
Chris Bush discusses the challenges of writing for the Crucible stages and the rewards of writing about her home city. Chris is an award-winning playwright whose work includes Standing at the Sky’s Edge.
Organised by Sheffield Hallam University
Tickets: Free – Podcast

Sat 23 Oct, 6pm
Tokyo Redux – David Peace
Joining us online from Japan, Yorkshire born writer David Peace – acclaimed author of the Red Riding Quartet and The Damned United – discusses the conclusion to his Tokyo Trilogy, Tokyo Redux.
Tickets: Free – Pre-recorded

Mon 25 Oct, 2pm
Wild Nights Out – Chris Salisbury
A beautifully illustrated hands-on guide for those wanting to take children outdoors for night-time nature adventures. Games, walks, exercises and stories about badgers and bats bring the darkness to life.
Tickets: Free – Pre-recorded

Tues 26 Oct, 2pm
If Only – Mies Van Hout and David Colmer
A fun filled interactive session. David Colmer will read this delightful story and Mies Van Hout will show her vibrant illustrations. You can draw along and create your own insect picture.
Part of New Dutch Writing Supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature
Age Guidance: 3-7 years
Tickets: Free – Pre-recorded

See offtheshelf.org.uk full event details and how to book
Thurs 28 Oct, 2pm
Meet Popcorn Bob – Maranke Rinck and Martijn van der Linden

*Popcorn Bob* is a laugh-out-loud story about a popcorn kernel that sprouts a face, arms and legs! Author Maranke Rinck and illustrator Martijn van der Linden will read from the story and teach you how to draw Popcorn Bob.

Part of New Dutch Writing
Supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature

Age Guidance: 7-12 years
Tickets: Free – Reading and Illustrated Talk – Pre-recorded

Thurs 28 Oct, 6.30pm
How to write... Grammar for Dreamers – Dr Jodie Clark

An interactive workshop to help you learn to approach grammar with a sense of understanding and wonder and to translate that wonder into ideas for prose and poetry.

Organised by Sheffield Hallam University

Tickets: Free – Places must be booked – Live on-line Zoom

Thurs 28 Oct, 8pm
This is How we Come Back Stronger – Lauren Bravo & Sophie Williams

Hear two leading feminist voices from this powerful anthology, an essential intersectional feminist collection for our times. In conversation with Rosie Beaumont-Thomas – Feminist Book Society.

Tickets: Free – Pre-recorded

See offtheshelf.org.uk full event details and how to book
Fri 29 Oct, 6pm
Refugee Tales – David Herd & Khodadad Mohammadi
The fourth volume in Comma Press’s Refugee Tales series, offers new international perspectives and has a focus on detention during the COVID-19 pandemic. Khodadad Mohammadi, from Afghanistan, now living in Germany, shares his story.
Tickets: Free – Pre-recorded

Fri 29 Oct, 2pm
Palm Trees at the North Pole – Marc ter Horst
A clear, accessible and often funny illustrated talk to help young readers understand the most important issue humanity has ever faced – climate change. Marc will show ways we can make positive change.
Part of New Dutch Writing
Supported by the Dutch Foundation for Literature
Age Guidance: 8 +
Tickets: Free – Pre-recorded

Fri 29 Oct, 8pm
Mateo Askaripour – Black Buck & Jason Mott – Hell of a Book
A double bill of young, talented New York authors each writing with distinctive style and energy. Powerful and timely, these are books getting to the heart of racism for Black Americans.
Tickets: Free – Pre-recorded

Sun 31 Oct, 11am
Walking the Invisible – Michael Stewart
This beautifully illustrated talk takes us in the footsteps of the Brontës. It explores their lives and the landscapes, geographical and social features that shaped their work.
Tickets: Free Pre-recorded

Off the Shelf
In the Square
Carrying on from the popular Tudor Square events in the summer we are pleased to bring you more activities curated with partners in the city and region. See the festival website for full details but hold these dates in your diary:

Sat 16 Oct, 11am-3pm
Celebrating the Peak

Sun 17 Oct, 11am-3pm
A Day of Folk Dance

Mon 25 Oct, 11am-3pm
Grimm & Co. Art & Writing Activities for families

Friday 29 Oct
Good Chance Walk

Sunday 31 Oct, 11am-3pm
Spoken word & music

Tickets: Free

In partnership with Sheffield City Council

See offtheshelf.org.uk full event details and how to book