DEPTFORD LITERATURE FESTIVAL

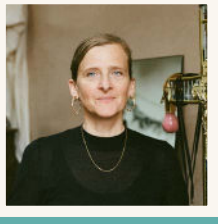
SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2024

#DeptfordLitFest

Celebrating the creativity and diversity of Deptford and Lewisham through stories, words and performance.

LAUNCH EVENT: FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2024

More info and book: deptfordlitfest.com



LOTTERY FUNDED
Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
SPREAD THE WORD

WELCOME

Welcome to Deptford Literature Festival, celebrating the diversity and creativity of Deptford and Lewisham through words, stories and performance.

The programme invites you to explore what literature means to us today in Deptford, with many events programmed under the Festival theme of Unheard Histories, Untold Stories. This year we'll be launching the Festival with a special commissioned event from Neoprene Genie on Friday 15 March and inviting you to get involved in the campaign to make Lewisham the UK's first Borough of Literature.

The programme features workshops, talks, walks and performances, including ways for you to get involved from home (see page 23). We also have a special programme of family and children's events for our younger Festival goers (see page 21), sessions for young people (see page 20) and activities you can take part in after the Festival (see page 27).

All the Festival workshops are open to writers with different levels of experience – from regular writers to complete beginners. Unless otherwise stated, all events in this programme take place on Saturday 16 March.

Come along and check out local literary talent and organisations; Deptford Literature Festival is for anyone who wants to have a go.

Deptford Literature Festival is run by Spread the Word with creative producer Tom MacAndrew and funded by Arts Council England with support from The Albany and Deptford Lounge.

HOW TO BOOK

Book your tickets and find out more at: **deptfordlitfest.com**

Please note that the general programme of events is suitable for ages 16+ unless otherwise stated. For the children's and family programme, please see each event for its recommended age range. All children attending family events must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

For travel information and a map of Festival venues, see page 30

All events are free, except for Neoprene Genie presents soft soft at The Albany which has free tickets available for low income Lewisham residents. Please see the Festival website for more information.

Tickets can be booked for all in-person, online and streamed as-live events on our ticketing platform Eventbrite. If you are experiencing difficulties making a booking, please contact: festival@spreadtheword.org.uk

For programme updates, please follow the Festival hashtag **#DeptfordLitFest**

ACCESS

All in-person Deptford Literature Festival events are BSL interpreted and marked with BSL

All events are wheelchair accessible with accessible toilets.

A quiet space is available during the day at Deptford Lounge, in the Music Room, on the first floor.

Two events will take place online and six will be streamed as-live and captioned. The links for each event will be emailed to ticket holders prior to the Festival day.

Deptford Lounge has Changing Place facilities, an induction loop and assistance dogs are welcome. For more information: deptfordlounge.org.uk/access

The Albany has an induction loop and assistance dogs are welcome. Free tickets can be booked for companions or personal assistants. For more information: thealbany.org.uk/accessibility

Keeping you safe is our priority. We continue to encourage anyone displaying Covid-like symptoms not to attend the Festival and attendees aged 16 and over to consider wearing masks, except those who are exempt, to protect some of our vulnerable artists and audience members.

Masks will be available at the Festival Hub in Deptford Lounge. There will be hand sanitiser and air filters for events and workshops in the following spaces at Deptford Lounge: Main Hall, Room 1, Room 4 and the Studio.

If you require additional access provision in order to attend or take part in the Festival, for example larger print handouts at workshops, or a Scribe, please get in touch before the Festival day at: access@spreadtheword.org.uk

If you require assistance on the Festival day itself, please come to the Festival Hub in the foyer of Deptford Lounge where we will be happy to help you.

Photo credit: Kashif Haque

BOROUGH OF LITERATURE

The first ever Borough of Literature ... Lewisham

LEWISHAM BOROUGH of LITERATURE

Spread the Word has a big, bold vision to see Lewisham declared as the UK's first Borough of Literature. We are launching a campaign on 16 March 2024 to bring this to life – do you want to be part of it?

- Lewisham is already rich with creative activities centred on words.
- Lewisham is home to some of London's best new writers and famous authors.
- Lewisham is home to many arts charities working with words, stories, and poetry and many more that include creative writing, publishing and spoken word and other art forms like film-making and music.

What's next?

We want the Borough of Literature to involve all of Lewisham's community, from school children to elders, community groups to businesses, open green spaces to public buildings. Whoever and wherever, we would like you to be involved.

Throughout 2024 Spread the Word will be hosting Open Houses (public meetings) with local communities like schools, writers and creatives, businesses, charities, community groups, to find out what a Borough of Literature would mean to you? And why is it important for Lewisham?

We are also recruiting an Advisory Group who can co-create the activities, partnerships, promotions, programmes, and impact of a Lewisham Borough of Literature.

Get involved

Find us in the Festival Marketplace in Deptford Lounge where a member of our team will be very happy to talk to you.

1. Follow us on social media
2. Sign up to our newsletter
3. Sign up to help make Lewisham the Borough of Literature

Find out more at boroughofliterature.com Keep up to date: #BoroughOfLiterature

Instagram/ Facebook: @spreadthewordwriters Twitter/X: @STWevents

Book your tickets: deptfordlitfest.com

FESTIVAL LAUNCH EVENT – FRIDAY 15 MARCH

NEOPRENE GENIE presents SOFT SOFT

Image credit: Misbah Anjum-James for Neoprene Genie

Time: Doors 7pm Event: 7.30pm-9.45pm
Location: Theatre, The Albany
Price: £10, free tickets for low-income Lewisham residents
Online: Live-streamed
Access: In person: BSL ; Online: captioned

Start your Festival weekend with our commissioned launch event, soft soft, which asks: how can we hold space for one another to explore our creative expanse? Neoprene Genie presents this evening as an offering. Soundscapes, self care and immersive musical poetic sharings from a host of international artists, curated by Tice Cin with love.

Featuring: Tice Cin, Kareem Parkins-Brown, Karen Nyame KG + Joe Kinwu, dream beach, Lex Amor, Maymana - Fungi Futures, Asmaa Jama, Mandisa Apena, Annie Hayter, Olivia Douglas, Oshanti Ahmed, Yomi Odubanjo, Maeve Slattery and Botanically Meadhbh.

This event remembers and honours our friend and loved one Gboyega Odubanjo. If you are able, please support the Gboyega Odubanjo Foundation: gofundme.com/f/gboyega-odubanjo-beloved-son-brother-friend

Hear Tice talk about Neoprene Genie, community and curating soft soft with Shani Akilah on the Festival Podcast - see page 25

FESTIVAL STALLS & SIGNINGS

Books by Deptford Literature Festival writers and artists will be available to buy from The Word bookshop (fiction, non-fiction and poetry for adults) and Round Table Books (children and young adult titles).

Local publishers and literature organisations will have stalls with titles to browse and buy.

Book signings by featured Festival authors will take place in the foyer of Deptford Lounge soon after events have taken place. Books need to be purchased in advance of signings.

A community mutual aid notice board will be in the foyer at Deptford Lounge, inviting people to buy a book from one of the Festival booksellers if they can for people who cannot afford one.

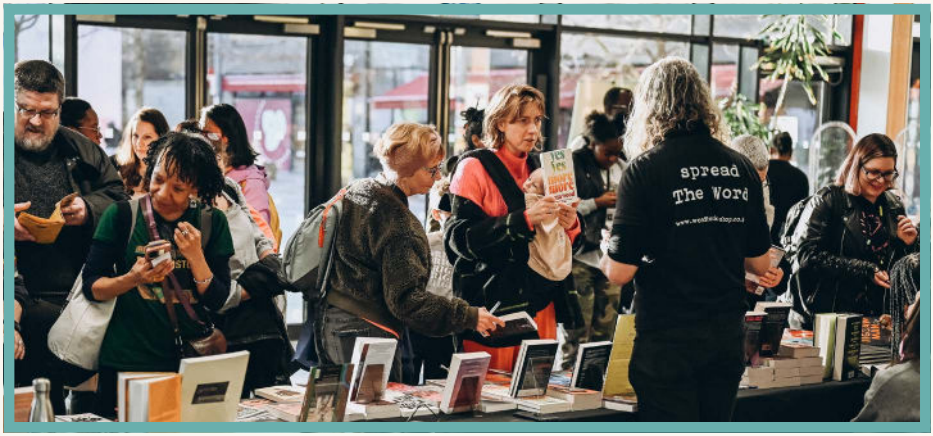


Photo credit: Kashif Haque

SOLE SISTERS EXHIBITION

Time: Saturday 16 March – Thursday 28 March
Location: Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE

Come and celebrate the creative work of refugee and migrant women living in Deptford at the Festival's first co-created exhibition – Sole Sisters. Over the past few months they have been working with local writer Carinya Sharples, exploring the themes of where we've been, where we are now and where we want to go through art, words and stories.

The Sole Sisters project is run in partnership with South London and Maudsley Recovery College, Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network, and Spread the Word.

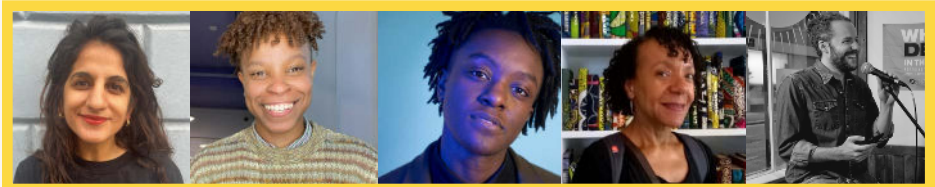
Photo credit: Hayley Madden

Book your tickets: deptfordlitfest.com

FESTIVAL MAGAZINE
featuring JAY BERNARD, JOE RIZZO NAUDI, COURTNEY CONRAD, JODY BURTON + ALIYA GULAMANI

For the 2024 Festival we're excited to launch the first edition of the Festival Magazine featuring new commissioned fiction, poetry and non-fiction from Festival writers and poets Jay Bernard, Joe Rizzo Naudi, Jody Burton, Courtney Conrad and editor Aliya Gulamani inspired by their Festival event or the Festival theme of Untold Stories, Unheard Histories.

Pick up your free copy at the Festival Hub in Deptford Lounge. The magazine will also be available to read online in PDF format.



TALK DI TINGS DEM ANTHOLOGY – UPLIFTING CARIBBEAN ELDERS' VOICES

We're delighted and honoured to publish *Talk di Tings Dem*, an anthology edited by the poets Courtney Conrad and Lola Oh, featuring poems and stories of the Caribbean and migration by the Caribbean Elders from Entelechy Arts' Meet Me at The Albany. From the vivid descriptions of homelands left behind to the challenges and triumphs of migration, every story is a mosaic piece contributing to the collective tale of a resilient and vibrant community. The Elders' work is a testament to the power of storytelling, and a reminder of the importance of preserving and uplifting voices that have often been marginalised.

Pick up your free copy at the Festival Hub in Deptford Lounge. The booklet will also be available to read online in PDF format.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

SOUNDING DEPTFORD — A SELF-GUIDED WALK

Time: Anytime
Location: Start and finish Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: Transcript available

Sounding Deptford is a self-guided walk created by Lewisham and South-East London residents and writers James Wilkes and Joe Rizzo Naudi, and is a new way to discover Deptford, its people and stories. You are invited to immerse yourself in and be guided by the poems and short fiction drawn from and inspired by the sounds of Deptford and its communities.

Book tickets to receive Sounding Deptford before the Festival day. The audio tour, transcript and map in PDF format will be available on the Festival website. Maps and transcripts will also be available at the Festival Hub in Deptford Lounge.

YOGA + BOOKS with LAURIE + GEMMA BOLGER

Time: 10am–11am
Location: Main Hall, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Kickstart your Festival day by joining Yogi Gemma Bolger and local writer Laurie Bolger as they guide you through a blissful 60 minutes of Yoga and Books: mixing slow flow yoga with mindful journaling. This is not your usual yoga experience: in a peaceful, safe environment sisters Laurie and Gemma pair various yoga poses with calming extracts read from carefully chosen books. During the session there will be time for you to journal and connect to your surroundings.

All levels welcome.
Mats provided or bring your own.

MEET THE EDITORS with ALIYA GULAMANI, EISHAR BRAR + MARIANNE TATEPO

Time: 10am–11am
Location: The Studio, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Online: Streamed as-live, Sun 17 March
Access: In person: BSL ; Online: captioned

Come and connect with some of the leading editors and publishers working in the publishing industry today – Aliya Gulamani, Commissioning Editor at Unbound, the world's first crowdfunding publisher, Eishar Brar, Editorial Director at Knights Of, an inclusive publisher focused on publishing underrepresented voices, and Marianne Tatepo, Publishing Director for Penguin Random House non-fiction imprint, Square Peg (Vintage).

You'll get an insight into what an editor does, how they work with writers and the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the publishing industry. Hosted by Spread the Word's Bobby Nayyar.

Photo credit: Mark Guest

WRITING THE IN-BETWEEN: A QUEER POETRY WORKSHOP with HELEN BOWELL

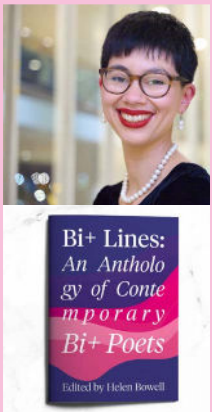


Photo credit: Hayley Madden

Time: 10am–11.30am
Location: Room 1, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Come and write poems that embrace the in-between inspired by *Bi+ Lines*, the first anthology of bi+ poets, with its editor Helen Bowell. You'll read poems from the anthology and use them as jumping-off points to explore in-betweenness in poetic form, our identities, and the fabric of reality itself. You'll find new ways to mine your daily life to write and reconsider all the binaries we've been taught to depend on.

The workshop is for LGBTQ+ and questioning people.
All abilities welcome.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

THE WILD ONES
with BERNADETTE RUSSELL

Time: 11am–12pm
Age recommendation: Adults of all ages & children 7+
Location: Brookmill Park
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Join Deptford storyteller and author Bernadette Russell in beautiful Brookmill Park, for a morning of tales from the wild side of SE8, starring foxes, magpies, river spirits and other, stranger, mythical beings. You may discover the secrets of the faraway creatures that lurk in the mysterious River Ravensbourne…plus make a charm to take home to bring you luck and good fortune for the coming Spring!

COMMUNITY BOOK SWAP + WORKSHOPS
with THE RAINBOW EXCHANGE

Time: Book Swap: 11am–3pm
Workshops: 12pm-1pm & 2pm–3pm
Location: Café, The Albany
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Join The Rainbow Exchange, a local non-profit providing sustainable community events, for a big community book swap!

Drop into the book swap and trade your old books for new reads, without spending a penny. You can bring up to five books to swap (must be in good condition or better!) and "shop" the titles other people have brought in using your swap tokens.

Take part in two family friendly **workshops** – book tickets as spaces are limited:

12pm–1pm: Climate Storytelling workshop with Connor S Hardy
2pm–3pm: Black-Out Poetry workshop with short-form poet Sierra Hope

Book your tickets: deptfordlitfest.com

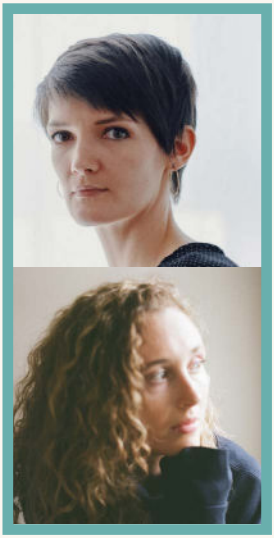
DEPTFORD DOCKYARD'S BURIED HISTORY with JODY BURTON

Time: 11.30am–12.30pm
Location: Studio, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Did you know that the roots of the British Transatlantic Slave Trade were established in Deptford? Join Lewisham resident Jody Burton for a talk on Deptford's unheard and unacknowledged history. Referencing historical information from the local area and key non-fiction texts such as *Longest Journey: A History of Black Lewisham* by Joan Anim-Addo and *The Autobiography of Olaudah Equiano* and Laura Shepherd-Robinson's historical fiction novel *Blood and Sugar*, Jody will also open up the conversation about Black representation in current British History books.

Read Jody's commissioned work in the Festival Magazine - see page 6

PLACES & PORTALS: THE EVERYDAY POETRY OF DEPTFORD with ALICE FRECKNALL + CAROLINE DRUITT



Time: 11.30am–2pm
Location: Red Room, The Albany
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Join local poets Alice Frecknall and Caroline Druitt for a fun and creatively challenging poetry workshop, celebrating the everyday stories of Deptford and its community. Drawing inspiration from the objects, images, and sounds found on our doorsteps and a walk through Deptford Market, you will be guided through a series of exercises to generate new writing that collages people and place, fact and fiction, the personal and the political. The workshop is for all writers.

Alice and Caroline have also created Festival At Home activity you can do in your own time - see page 25

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

LEFT-HAND PAGES WORKSHOP with AMBER OBASI + BABY BLUE

Time: 11.30am–1.30pm
Location: Pepys Resource Centre
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

In an interactive poetry workshop, join Amber Obasi and Baby Blue to explore Dionne Brand's *The Blue Clerk* and the concept of the left-hand page: writing which notices, leaves space for and attempts to record what has previously been unsaid. Look at other examples of writing which bring the unspoken to the foreground before taking a trip to view a site on Oxestalls Road (a 5 minute walk) as inspiration for a creative writing exercise to record your own left-hand pages.

This workshop is open to everyone, especially those who do not consider themselves to be poets. Given the location, priority will be given to those from the Pepys area. Accessibility adjustments can be made in regards to the site visit.

DOCUMENT YOUR CULTURE WORKSHOP with EMMA WARREN

Time: 12.00pm–1.30pm
Location: Room 1, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

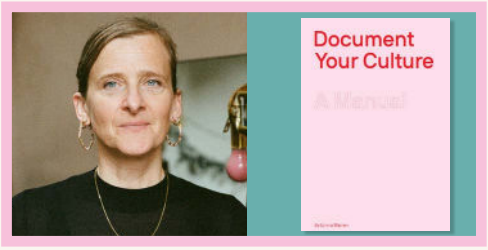
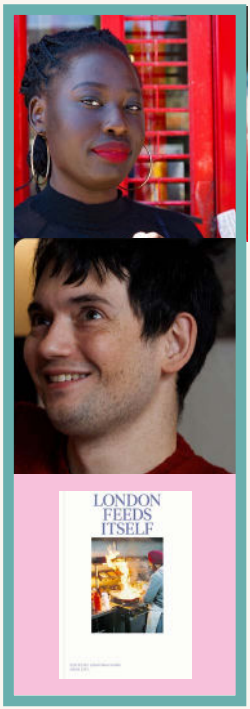


Photo credit: Karolína Fialová

Lewisham author Emma Warren self-published her pamphlet *Document Your Culture* in 2020. It has become a cult publication for people who want to tell stories about places, spaces and communities they're connected to. She'll be bringing print items from her home archive to offer ideas and inspiration to everyone attending. Suitable for people who are already documenting their culture, for those who've got an idea and for those with no idea (yet). Zero experience necessary.

Emma will also be joining Aniefiok 'Neef' Ekpoudom, Jacqueline Crooks and Natty Kasambala at the Music + Words event – see page 18

DEPTFORD FEEDS ITSELF: FOOD, DISPLACEMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT IN DEPTFORD



Time: 12pm–1pm
Location: Main Hall, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Online: Streamed as live, Sun 17 March
Access: In person: BSL; Online: captioned

During the last fifteen years, the food culture of Deptford has changed. This is not just a natural evolution, but the result of planning, redevelopment, increasing rents, immigration raids, and new residents. Is this a good thing? Join **Bridget Minamore**, **Jonathan Nunn**, **Rees Nicolas** and others, as they discuss the past, present and future of Deptford's food.

The updated and expanded second edition of *London Feeds Itself* edited by Jonathan has just been published by Open City and Deptford-based publisher Fitzcarraldo Editions.

SOFT CURSES + F*CK POEMS with INUA ELLAMS

Photo credit: Pete Messum

Time: 2pm–3.30pm
Location: Room 1, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

For the longest time Inua Ellams believed it showed linguistic laziness to swear or to include profanity in poetry. He believed it claimed the space for a more visceral, aggressive, wounding precise language and to settle on any four letter word showed a distinct lack of imagination. Inspired by James Brown, he started writing *The Actual F**k*, a book of poems, each titled with that ubiquitous word. Join Inua for a workshop on offensive language and indirect insults where we will discuss and dissect the pros and cons of using, and the various approaches to writing, bad language.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

DISABLED WRITERS COMMISSIONS
with YAZ NIN, JAMEISHA PRESCOD + AMPLE COLLECTIVE

Time: 1pm–2pm
Location: Studio, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL; Transcripts available

Come and experience new original commissioned work by the writer Yaz Nin, artist-filmmaker and writer Jameisha Prescod, and the AMPLE Collective – writers and artists Sofia Lyall and Jacqueline Ennis Cole – followed by a discussion of their work with hosts Ayesha Chouglay and Joe Rizzo Naudi.

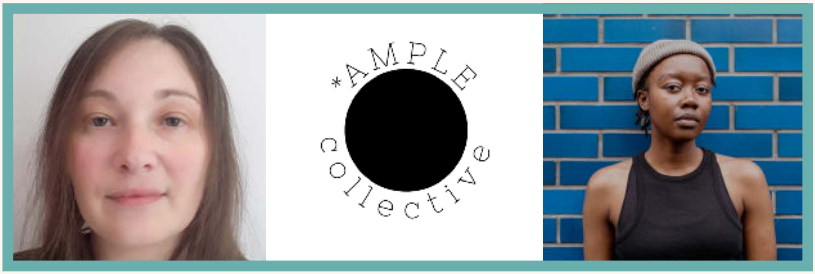
Kibris born, London raised writer **Yaz Nin**'s commission is a short film of a prose piece - a letter to a previous tenant - which explores the theme of precarious housing and the invisible chain of community and connection. It is an expression of solidarity and empathy with a lived knowledge of the reality of living in London for many.

South London based, **Jameisha Prescod**'s commission is an audio reading of a creative non-fiction piece exploring the theme of water and its role in Black diasporic communities. Starting from the personal, the piece will fan out into how Black communities have confronted water, bringing in the mermaid cultures of the Caribbean and Mami Wata, before returning back to the personal.

AMPLE, an intergenerational neurodivergent collective co-founded by Sofia Lyall and Jacqueline Ennis Cole, commissioned micro poems and stories with narratives situated in the local ecology of Lewisham, draw on the familiar and the strange and explore the realities, mutterings, and speculative imaginings, from climate breakdown to technological advances, through a neuroqueer lens.

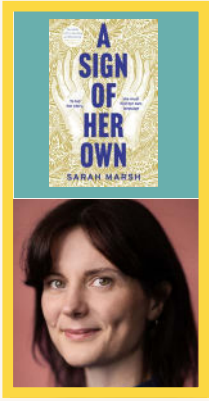
The writers' work will be available to read, watch and listen to on the Festival website.

The Disabled Writers Commissions are supported by Spread the Word.

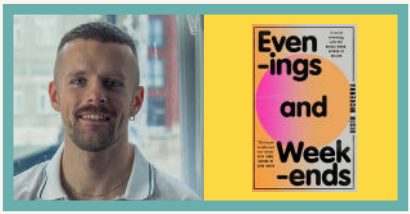


YOUR NEXT READ with ASHANI LEWIS, OISÍN MCKENNA + SARAH MARSH

Time: 2.30pm–3.30pm
Location: Studio, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Online: Streamed as-live, Sun 17 March
Access: In person: BSL; Online: captioned



Join local writer, editor and event host, Sara Jafari, in this easy going and engaging event where you'll be introduced to the work of up and coming writers, Ashani Lewis (*Winter Animals*), Oisín McKenna (*Evenings and Weekends*) and Sarah Marsh (*A Sign of Your Own*) and participate in a conversation about their path to publication.



ZINE-MAKING with ARTIZINE UK

Time: 3pm–5pm
Location: Main Hall, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Join Ioana from Artizine UK for an inclusive zine-making workshop exploring ideas and feelings centred around place, play and nature. This is a space for reimaging or revisiting alternative worlds through story-telling, intuitive art making and togetherness. You'll learn about the variety and diversity of zines, make your own concertina zine exploring the theme of 'place, play and nature' and experiment with different creative ways in which you can visualise and tell stories.

No prior experience needed. All materials provided.

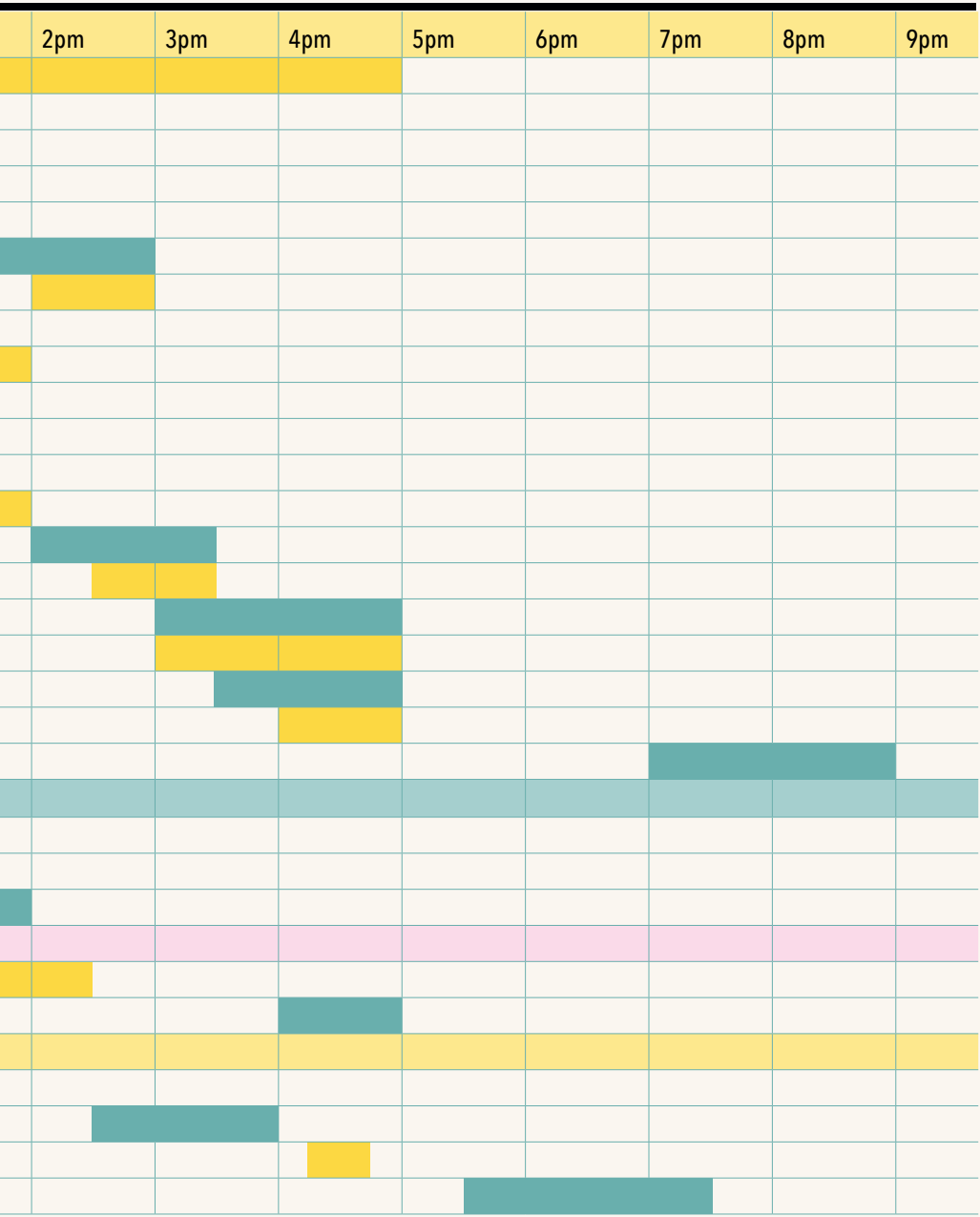
FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

This quick guide shows all the Festival events + workshops taking place on Saturday 16 March.

EVENTS + WORKSHOPS		10am	11am	12pm	1pm
Sounding Deptford self-guided walk	D				
Books & Yoga	DL				
Meet the Editors*	DL				
Writing the In-Between	DL				
The Wild Ones	BP				
Community Bookswap	TA				
Community Bookswap workshops	TA				
Deptford Dockyard's Buried History	DL				
Places + Portals	TA				
Left-Hand Pages	PRC				
Document Your Culture	DL				
Deptford Feeds Itself*	DL				
Disabled Writers Commissions	DL				
Soft Curses + F*ck Poems	DL				
Your Next Read*	DL				
Zine Making with Artizine UK	DL				
Vietnamese Poetry Translation	DL				
Lewisham Writes	DL				
Music + Words*	DL				
Queer Poetry Night	TCC				
CHILDREN'S + FAMILY EVENTS					
Never Show A T-Rex A Book	DL				
Suit Up! Step Up!	DL				
History through Mystery	DL				
YOUNG PEOPLE'S EVENTS					
Young Writers Collective	DL				
Story Algorithms 101	DL				
FESTIVAL ONLINE					
Disabled Poets Prize 2024					
Black Gay Ink workshop					
Black Gay Ink In-conversation					
CRIPtic x Spread the Word Salon					

D - locations around Deptford
DL - Deptford Lounge
BP - Brookmill Park
TA - The Albany
PRC - Pepys Resource Centre
TCC - Triangle LGBTQ+ Cultural Centre

The Festival launch event, Neoprene Genie presents soft soft, takes place on Friday 15 March at The Albany - see page 4



Events streamed as-live (marked *) start from Sunday 17 March and are available for seven days - see page 26
The Sole Sisters Exhibition runs from Saturday 16 to Thursday 27 March at Deptford Lounge - see page 5
The After Festival workshops - Lewisham Writes and Talk di Tings Dem - run from April at Catford Library - see page 27

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

VIETNAMESE POETRY TRANSLATION WORKSHOP with QUYNH NGUYEN + APRIL YEE

Time: 3pm–5pm
Location: Room 4, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Try your hand at translating poetry in a unique workshop – without needing to know Vietnamese. Expert translator Quynh Nguyen will share a contemporary Vietnamese poem in the original language and a guide translation in English. With the help of poet-facilitator April Yee, you'll work together to produce a collaborative translation which will be published on the Poetry Translation Centre's website, joining hundreds of poems in an international digital archive.

If you have some experience with translation or Vietnamese – great! If not, we'll provide you with all the tools you need to take part.

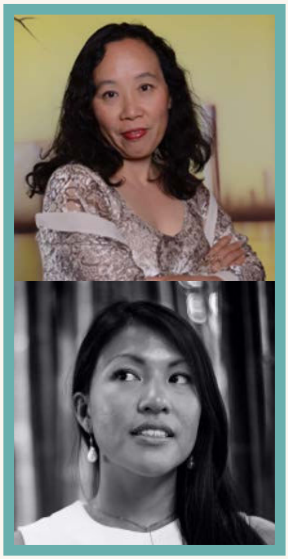


Photo credit: Mehdi Messouli

LEWISHAM WRITES WORKSHOP with CARINYA SHARPLES

Time: 3.30pm–5pm
Location: Room 3, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Building on her popular Creative Conversation workshop for Lewisham writers at the 2023 Festival, join Carinya Sharples for a relaxed workshop exploring place and wellbeing through creative writing. The session will include a range of activities and give you the chance to connect to other local writers. No experience in writing is needed.

The workshop will launch a series of Lewisham Writes workshops taking place at Catford Library from April for Lewisham residents - see page 27

Photo credit: Kashif Haque

MUSIC + WORDS with ANIEFIOK 'NEEF' EKPOUDOM, EMMA WARREN, JACQUELINE CROOKS + NATTY KASAMBALA

Time: 4pm–5pm
Location: Studio, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Online: Streamed as-live, Sun 17 March
Access: In person: BSL; Online: captioned

Sit down with host Natty Kasambala and South London writers Aniefiok 'Neef' Ekpoudom (*Where We Come From: Rap, Home and Hope in Modern Britain*), Emma Warren (*Document Your Culture, Dance Your Way Home*), and Jacqueline Crooks (*Fire Rush*) for a conversation about music and writing.

They'll be exploring the intimate connection between music and story, how it informs their work and how South London's often hidden and untold music scenes relate to a communities' identity, sense of place, history and activism.

Listen to Jacqueline Crooks talk about her work, music and words with Shani Akilah on the Festival Podcast – see page 25

Photo credit: Karolína Fialová

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

QUEER POETRY NIGHT with DEAN ATTA + CAROLINE BIRD + SL GRANGE

Time: Doors: 6pm–11pm; Event: 7pm–9pm
Location: Triangle LGBTQ+ Cultural Centre
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Celebrate all flavours of poetry and creative writing at Triangle LGBTQ+ Cultural Centre!

Hosted by SL Grange, come along to enjoy the magic of headline sets from Dean Atta and Caroline Bird. Put your name in the hat for the open mic slots, or if you're more of a print-poet, bring your page/concrete texts to add to our free, open-to-all gallery. You can even sell your books, zines and prints in our pop-up bookshop, and enjoy a drink or three in our cosy social club bar.

This event is for a Queer audience and allies.

As part of Triangle's Festival commission they ran a series of creative workshops for LGBTQ+ writers, poets and artists with Dean Atta, Angela Clerkin, Remi Graves, Anna Dabrowska, Troy Fairclough and Rachel House which took place in the lead up to the Festival.

Photo credit: Thomas Sammut

Check out some of the Festival activity taking place during the Festival day and available online for LGBTQ+ writers, poets and readers:

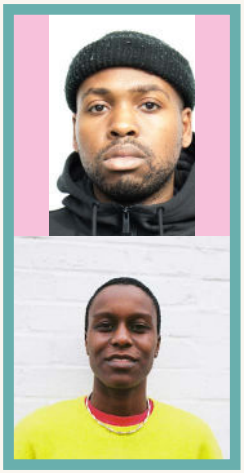
Workshops: Writing the In-Between a Queer poetry workshop with Helen Bowell (see page 8) and Black Gay Ink's Exploring Writers' Block with Troy Fairclough (see page 23)

Event: Black Gay Ink's in-conversation with alumnus and debut writer Selali Fiamanya (see page 23)

Festival Online: Helen and Troy have also each created Festival At Home activities for you to do in your own space and time which can be downloaded from the Festival website in PDF format.

YOUNG WRITERS COLLECTIVE SHARING EVENT

Time: 1.30pm–2.30pm
Location: Main Hall, Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

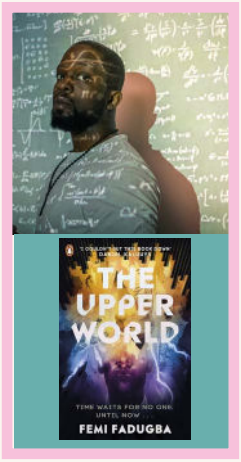


Come along to hear the Young Writers Collective's poets, writers and spoken word creatives' work about the issues that matter to them in this co-created sharing event with the poets Remi Graves and Kareem Parkins-Brown.

The Young Writers Collective is a new South East London creative community of young poets, writers and spoken word artists from Lewisham, Southwark, Greenwich and Bromley supported by Spread the Word. With Remi and Kareem they've been developing their creative work and getting an insight into having a career as a writer with the former Young People's Laureate of London, poet Theresa Lola.

STORY ALGORITHMS 101 WORKSHOP with FEMI FADUGBA

Time: 4pm–5pm
Location: Room 1, Deptford Lounge
Age recommendation: 11–15 years
Price: FREE
Access: BSL



Turn your creativity and life experiences into your very own story in a workshop with YA author Femi Fadugba, where you'll get inspiration from Femi's short story 'Algorithm'.

Femi's debut science-fiction novel, and soon-to-be Netflix feature starring Daniel Kaluuya, *The Upper World* follows two teenagers based in Peckham, London. The story explores themes of love, violence and time travel physics as the pair are thrown into a mind-bending and life-threatening race against the clock.

Hear Femi talk about his work with Shani Akilah on the Festival Podcast – see page 25

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY EVENTS

A day of special events for younger members of our community and their families.

All children's and family events are free to attend and take place at **Deptford Lounge Children's Library**, 9 Giffin Street, London SE8 4RJ and are BSL interpreted.

Parents, guardians or carers must stay with their children during these events.

Author signings will take place in the Festival Marketplace with books available from our partners Round Table books.

NEVER SHOW A T-REX A BOOK! with RASHMI SIRDESHPANDE

Time: 10am–10.45am
Age recommendation: 3–5 years
Access: BSL

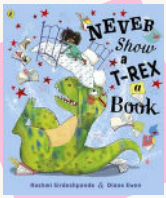


Photo credit: Charlotte Knee Photography

Get ready for some dino fun in this imaginative, interactive event which uses a magical WHAT IF as a launchpad for stories. What if a T-Rex learns how to read? What if a stegosaurus falls in love with MATHS and CODING and builds a rocket to go up into space? What if a diplodocus learns to draw and becomes an ART SENSATION? What mischief would they get up to? Find out in this celebration of learning, reading, STEAM, and art!

SUIT UP! STEP UP! IT'S TIME TO BECOME A HERO with ALEX FALASE-KOYA

Time: 11.30am–12.15pm
Age recommendation: 6–8 years
Access: BSL

Join author of the *Marv* series Alex Falase-Koya for a super-powered, super-fun introduction to Marv – the kindest superhero in town. Hear about Alex's own favourite superheroes and his favourite books growing up before helping Alex design a brand new supersuit for your own hero.

HISTORY through MYSTERY: STORIES of BLACK LONDON with J T WILLIAMS

Time: 1pm–2pm
Age recommendation: 9–11 years
Access: BSL

Create a character to star at the centre of your very own mystery story with J T Williams, author of *The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries*, drawing on true stories for inspiration. What secrets of past lives does Deptford hold? Who were the Sons – and surely Daughters – of Africa? Travel back in time to the dark and dangerous streets of Georgian London. Delve into the past and discover the fascinating figures who fought for freedom, from sailors to shopkeepers, rebellious writers to runaways.

Events for young people: Check out the Story Algorithm 101 workshop for 11-15 year olds with YA writer Femi Fadugba and the Young Writers Collective sharing event with Remi Graves + Kareem Parkins Brown – see page 20

For older children and families: Drop in to the Community Book Swap at The Albany or sign up for their workshops (ages 10+); or join local storyteller Bernadette Russell for the story of The Wild Ones as you walk through Brookmill Park (ages 7+) – see page 9

Festival Online: get creative with J T Williams' Festival At Home activities for children and listen to Femi Fadugba talk about his work on the Festival Podcast – both available on the Festival website.

FESTIVAL ONLINE

BLACK GAY INK with TROY FAIRCLOUGH + SELALI FIAMANYA

Time: Workshop: 2.30pm–4pm; Event: 4.15pm–4.45pm
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Black Gay Ink's workshop and event are open to all. The workshop will explore writing and attitudes to your work from an LGBTQI+ point of view.

2.30pm–4pm: Workshop: Exploring Writer's Block with Troy Fairclough: Join Black Gay Ink's founder Troy Fairclough to explore how writer's block can be a gift. Many writers face 'Writer's Block' but how do Black, gay writers navigate this? How can this hurdle turn out to be a gift? The workshop will give tips and advice for emerging writers, writing across all genres.

4.15pm–4.45pm: In conversation with Selali Fiamanya: Selali Fiamanya, an alumnus of Black Ink Gay, will discuss with Troy his debut novel *Before We Hit the Ground*, the process of getting his novel published, and the role that community-based writing organisations play in supporting underrepresented writers to get their stories out. There will also be the opportunity to find out more

CRIPTIC x SPREAD THE WORD SALON with DANIEL SLUMAN + ZOË MCWHINNEY

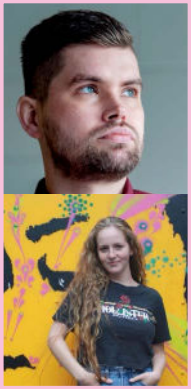


Photo credits: Naomi Woddis, Alice Gallagher

Time: Workshop: 5.30pm–6.30pm; Event: 6.30pm–7.30pm
Price: FREE
Access: BSL; live captioned

Join poet Daniel Sluman and Visual Vernacular performer and poet in British Sign Language Zoë McWhinney for a special Festival edition of the CRIPtic x Spread the Word Salon for D/deaf and disabled writers writing in any genre, new or more experienced.

5.30pm–6.30pm: Workshop with Daniel Sluman
Join Daniel in a relaxed and supportive setting where you'll be looking at language through the lens of our own bodies and our bodily experience, talking about the things we have in common and using writing exercises to create your own original work. For D/deaf and disabled writers of any ability, including those just starting out.

6.30pm–7.30pm: Performance + Q+A with Zoë McWhinney + Open Mic
Zoë will be performing and discussing with Daniel her iconic and visual-based bilingual poetry and Visual Vernacular inspired by her own personal life as an ocularcentric human being. There's also the opportunity for five writers to share their work at the open mic. If you'd like to be considered for an open mic slot, please book a ticket to the event by 23 February and we'll send you more information.

2024 DISABLED POETS PRIZE
with JAMIE HALE, PASCALE PETIT + STEPHEN LIGHTBOWN

Time: 12pm broadcast
Price: FREE
Access: BSL; captioned

Join Jamie Hale, founder and judge of the Disabled Poets Prize and fellow judges Pascale Petit and Stephen Lightbown for the announcement of the winners and shortlisted poets of this year's Prize.

Stephen will be introducing the Best Single Poem awards and Pascale the Best Unpublished Pamphlet, followed by readings from the winning and placed poets in each category. There will also be a performance in BSL by the commended poet awarded by BSL Poet Laureate Kabir Kapoor for the Best Poem Performed in BSL.

The Disabled Poets Prize was set up to highlight and celebrate the incredible work being produced by disabled poets across the UK. The work received this year was exceptional - deft, intricate poetry that issued from the perspective of being disabled, whilst reaching out to explore universal themes and ideas. The event's readings show a vision of future poetry.

You can watch the announcement event on the Festival website.

The Prize is supported by the Author's Licensing + Collecting Society with partners CRIPtic Arts, Spread the Word, Verve Poetry Press, The Literary Consultancy and Arvon Foundation.

Photo credit: Derrick Kakembo

FESTIVAL ONLINE

FESTIVAL AT HOME – ACTIVITIES TO DO IN YOUR OWN TIME

Looking for inspiration and ways to spark your creativity? Festival writers **Troy Fairclough**, **Alice Frecknall**, **Caroline Druitt**, and **Helen Bowell** have created writing exercises and activities for you to do in your own space and time. There's also activities for children and young people to get creative with words by **J T Williams**.

All the Festival At Home activities are available to download in PDF format from the Festival website.

Photo credit: Hayley Madden

FESTIVAL PODCAST hosted by SHANI AKILAH

Join Festival Podcast host Shani Akilah as she talks to writers **Tice Cin**, **Jacqueline Crooks**, **Femi Fadugba** and **Helen Bowell** about their work, their inspirations and their Festival events.

Shani is a Black-British Caribbean fiction writer and screenwriter from South London, a book influencer and co-founder of the Nyah Network, a book club for Black women. Her debut short story collection *For Such A Time As This* is published this year.

Tune into the Festival Podcasts on the Festival website. Transcripts available of each podcast.

Book your tickets: deptfordlitfest.com

FESTIVAL ONLINE STREAMS

Six of the Festival events will be available to watch as online streams for seven days after first broadcast.

All the streams are captioned.

FRIDAY 15 MARCH

Neoprene Genie presents soft soft: Live streamed from: 7.30pm
Featuring Tice Cin, Kareem Parkins-Brown, Karen Nyame KG + Joe Kinwu, dream beach, Lex Amor, Maymana - Fungi Futures, Asmaa Jama, Mandisa Apena, Annie Hayter, Olivia Douglas, Oshanti Ahmed, Yomi Odubanjo, Maeve Slattery and Botanically Meadhbh.

SATURDAY 16 MARCH

2024 Disabled Poets Prize announcement event: Broadcast from 12pm
With Pascale Petit, Stephen Lightbown + readings from placed poets, hosted by Jamie Hale

SUNDAY 17 MARCH

Meet the Editors: Streamed as-live from 10am
With Aliya Gulamani, Eishar Brar + Marianne Tatepo, hosted by Bobby Nayyar

Deptford Feeds Itself: Streamed as-live from 12pm
With Bridgit Minamore, Jonathan Dunn + Rees Nicolas

Your Next Read: Streamed as-live from 2.30pm
With Ashani Lewis, Oisín McKenna + Sarah Marsh, hosted by Sara Jafari

Music + Words: Streamed as-live from 4pm
With Aniefiok 'Neef' Ekpoudom, Emma Warren + Jacqueline Crooks, hosted by Natty Kasambala

AFTER THE FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

LEWISHAM WRITES WORKSHOPS + SHARING EVENT with CARINYA SHARPLES

Dates: Every Saturday from 6 April to 11 May, 10am–12pm
Location: Catford Library
Price: FREE
Access: Wheelchair access; accessible toilet

Come and join Carinya Sharples for a relaxed series of workshops exploring place and wellbeing through creative writing. The sessions will include a range of activities and give you the chance to connect to other Lewisham writers. There's also the opportunity to share your work with fellow writers, friends and family, if you would like to do so. No experience in writing is required.

TALK DI TINGS DEM POETRY WORKSHOP with COURTNEY CONRAD + LOLA OH

Date / time: Saturday 13 April, 2pm–3.30pm
Location: Catford Library
Price: FREE
Access: Wheelchair access; accessible toilet

Inspired by their work with Caribbean Elders creating the *Talk di Tings Dem* Anthology (see page 6), Courtney Conrad and Lola Oh will be running a workshop where you'll get an understanding of Caribbean migration beyond stereotypical narratives through exploring personal stories and the diverse reasons for migration which draws on the work of Caribbean poets (Roger Robinson, Anthony McNeill, Louise Bennett etc). You'll then get to create your own poems and stories to express your thoughts and reflections on Caribbean migration.

No prior knowledge or writing experience is required.

SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL

Deptford Literature Festival celebrates local talent and introduces exciting new writers from Lewisham and nearby boroughs.

We want everyone to be able to join in the workshops, readings, events and community projects for free. We do not want finances to be a barrier to anyone taking part.

If you are in a position to make a donation, please give a gift today. Anything you give will help more people come to future Festivals for free. Our typical ticket price, without donations, is £10.

Please give what you can through this link: www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/deptfordlitfest
or via the QR code below:

Make a donation:

Tell us what you thought:

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF THE FESTIVAL

We'd love to know what you thought of your experience at Deptford Literature Festival 2024.

Through the Festival you'll find QR codes linking you to a feedback form where you can share your thoughts and experiences at the Festival. By completing the form you could win one of 4x £20 book tokens.

Festival volunteers can also support you to share your feedback online or on a paper form, and there will be opportunities for you to share your ideas for future Deptford Literature Festivals.

Give your feedback through this link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/DeptfordLitFest2024
or via the QR code above.

GETTING TO DEPTFORD

Train: Deptford (2 min walk to Deptford Lounge)
Access: lift to both platforms, step free access

DLR: Deptford Bridge (9 min walk to Deptford Lounge)
Access: lift to both platforms, step free access

Train/Overground: New Cross (8 min walk to Deptford Lounge)
Access: lift to platforms, ramp for train access, step free access, staff help available

Buses: 47 / 53 / 177 / 188 / 199 / 225 / 253

Bike parking: Spaces outside Deptford Lounge and The Albany. For more spaces in Deptford check: activethings.app/home

Disabled car parking: Franklin Street car park is the closest to Deptford Lounge with seven disabled bays. The pay-and-display parking bays are 77 steps away from the Lounge.

Taxi drop off point: If you are travelling via taxi, the drop off point is on Giffin Street directly next to Deptford Lounge.

We are committed to mitigating the environmental impacts of creating a live Festival, reducing our carbon footprint and advocating for action on climate change.

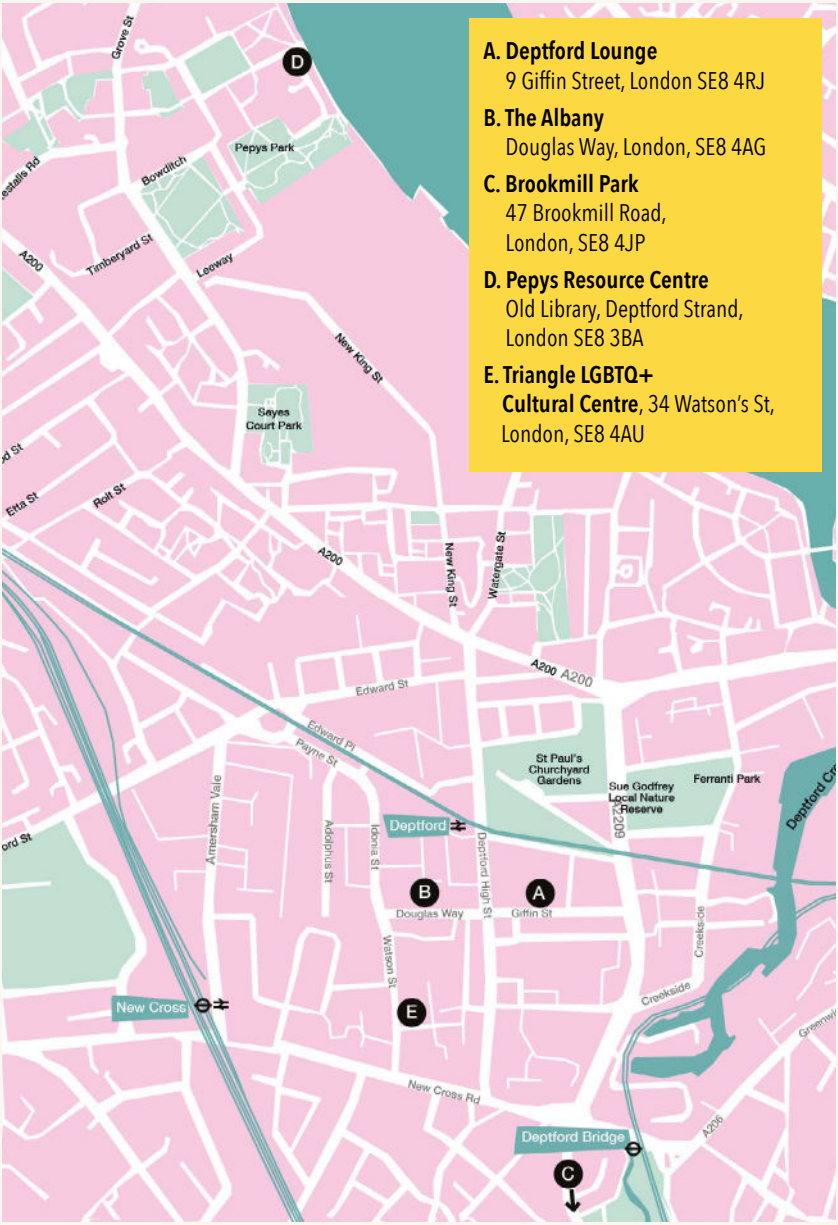
We would like to encourage people coming to the Festival to use local public transport links or to walk or cycle if possible.

You can read the full Festival Environmental Statement on the Festival website.

Photo credits: Kashif Haque

FESTIVAL MAP

Deptford Lounge is the Hub of the Festival and where you'll be able to get more information about what is taking place during the day.



DEPTFORD LITERATURE FESTIVAL

THANKS

We are grateful to our principal funders Arts Council England. Thanks also to our main partners The Albany and Deptford Lounge for all their support. Thanks to National Lottery Awards for All for supporting our community projects Sole Sisters and Talk di Tings Dem and the Authors Licensing and Collecting Society for supporting the 2024 Disabled Poets Prize.

Thank you to our partners Neoprene Genie, Fitzcarraldo Editions, Open City, the Friends of Brookmill Park, The Word bookshop, Round Table Books, Entelechy Arts and Meet Me at The Albany, South London and Maudsley Recovery College, Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network, Poetry Translation Centre, Triangle LGBTQ+ Cultural Centre, Artizine UK, The Rainbow Exchange, Verve Poetry Press, The Literary Consultancy, Arvon Foundation, Lewisham Libraries, Black Gay Ink and CRIPtic Arts.

Thank you to our Festival volunteers, as well as the great artists, publishers, BSL interpreters, captioners, photographers and support staff who are contributing to this year's programme.

Most of all, thank you to you, for coming and supporting the Festival.

DEPTFORD LOUNGE

the Albany

COMMUNITY FUND

ALCS

LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

SPREAD THE WORD