DEPTFORD LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Saturday
19 MARCH 2022
#DeptfordLitFest

SPREAD THE WORD

WELCOME

Welcome to Deptford Literature Festival, celebrating the diversity and creativity of Deptford and Lewisham through words, stories and performance. Deptford Literature Festival, run by Spread the Word with independent producer Tom MacAndrew, takes place on Saturday 19 March 2022.

The programme invites you to explore what literature means to us today in Deptford, during this special year of We Are Lewisham, London Borough of Culture 2022. It features workshops, talks, walks and performances, including ways for you to get involved from home. All the Festival workshops are open to writers with different levels of experience – from regular writers to complete beginners.

The Festival is delighted to be hosting the Creative Challenge for We Are Lewisham, inviting Lewisham's citizens to celebrate the place we live and work in by writing and telling our stories of home.

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

Book your tickets: www.deptfordliteraturefestival.com

WHAT'S ON OFFER

This programme outlines the events taking place including a special day of family and children's activities run by Round Table Books for our younger festival goers (see page 9).

The majority of our events are BSL interpreted, as indicated in the programme by BSL and eightS of our events are free to attend. We want to make sure as many people of Deptford, Lewisham and beyond can access as much of the Festival as possible. Free tickets are available for events with a cost attached for Lewisham residents on low incomes – please see our website for details.

You can take part in the Festival at home. Check out our specially commissioned writing challenges on the Festival website to get inspired and give writing a go. If you can't make the Lewisham Writers in Conversation event or Inua Ellams' RAP Party in person, sign up for the livestreams. You can also download the Dead Men in Deptford audio walking tour (with transcript and map) and do it in your own time.

Round Table Books will be providing a bookstall in Deptford Lounge during the day, selling copies of titles by writers taking part in the Festival.

HOW TO BOOK

Book your tickets and find our more at: **www.deptfordliteraturefestival.com**

Please note that the general programme of events are 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 access and travel information and a map of Festival venues, go to pages 13–14.

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

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

WE ARE LEWISHAM CREATIVE CHALLENGE

Time: 12pm–4pm
Location: Outside Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Come and tell your story of home

Join us at the Poetry Takeaway outside Deptford Lounge for We Are Lewisham's Creative Challenge, inviting people to celebrate the place we live and work in by telling and writing stories of home. You'll be able to take part in a short creative writing workshop as well as tell your own story and get a poem in return. Everyone welcome!

TOKEN

TOKEN MAGAZINE

Time: All day
Location: Deptford Lounge
Price: FREE

Pick up the Festival special edition

Come and get your own copy of TOKEN magazine – the Deptford Literature Festival edition. Edited by local writer Sara Jafari, it features artwork and new writing inspired by Deptford and Lewisham.

Book your tickets: www.deptfordliteraturefestival.com

WHEN THE TIDE GOES OUT with ELLA FREARS

Time: 9am–2pm
Location: Creekside Discovery Centre
Price: £10
Access: BSL

A guided walk & poetry workshop through Deptford Creek with Ella Frears

We'll wrap up warm, pull on some waders and take a guided walk through the river, learning about the tides, local history, wildlife and the bizarre objects that are lost and found in Deptford Creek. We'll then return indoors to write poems using the things we've observed, along with anything we can dredge up from our own lives.

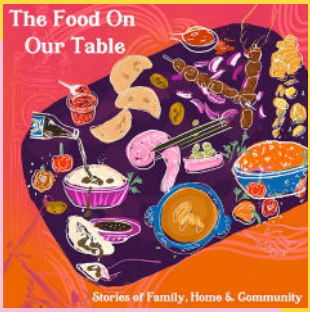


Illustration © Tinuke Faborun 2022

THE FOOD ON OUR TABLE: Stories of Home, Family and Community

Time: Drop-in between 9.30am–12.30pm
Location: Greenhouse Deptford
Price: FREE
Access: BSL, steep ramp, staff happy to help.

Come and tell your stories of home, family and community

The Food On Our Table captures stories from local residents, centred on food. Local writers Carinya Sharples and Laura Barker will spend the morning as writers-in-residence at the Greenhouse Café. They invite you to take a seat, join the feast and share your stories.

This event is supported by a Lewisham Creative Change grant and has been visiting other locations in Lewisham. Please see our website for details.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

FILM-IN-A-DAY FILM SCREENING

Time: Rolling screenings between 10am–4pm
Location: Deptford Lounge Room 1
Price: FREE
Access: Captioned

Watch a film made by young people of Deptford

Throughout the day we will be screening a new film created by young people from Deptford aged 11-13 who have been working with filmmaker Mmoloki Chrystie and poet Cecilia Knapp to create a film-poem across just 24 hours. This event is delivered in partnership with Youth First.

DEAD MEN IN DEPTFORD: A walking tour by ANNA SAYBURN LANE

Time: Any time
Location: Begins outside Deptford Lounge. Finishes at Surrey Quays station (approx. 3 miles)
Price: FREE
Access: Available as an audio guide or transcript

Explore the history of Deptford's waterfront and its impact on today's literary scene.

Explore the history of Deptford's waterfront and its impact on literature through the ages. From murdered Elizabethan playwrights to dandy diarists, Deptford's waterfront has a rich literary history. Local author Anna Sayburn Lane – whose thriller *Unlawful Things* opens with a murder in a Deptford churchyard – will guide you in their footsteps and explain how the history of the area continues to inspire contemporary writing. Download the audio tour, transcript and map from the Festival website. Maps and transcripts will also be available at Deptford Lounge.

Book your tickets: www.deptfordliteraturefestival.com

DISSEMBLING NATURE with JAMIE HALE

Time: 10.30am–1.30pm
Location: Deptford Lounge Room 2
Price: £5
Access: BSL

If you're interested in nature, bodies and climate change this is the workshop for you

How can we write about nature from a perspective that includes humanity as a part of nature, and explores the impact we have on it, as much as the impact it has on us? From Joy Harjo to Mahmoud Darwish, Ernesto Cardenal to Joan Retallack, Natalie Diaz to Paul Monette, we'll explore non-normative nature poetry, climate change, the role of the poet, other people's work and create our own.

SHE ROES OF LEWISHAM — a poetry workshop with LAILA SUMPTON

Time: 10.30am–12pm
Location: Deptford Lounge Music Room
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Do you know any SHEroes? Time to tell their stories through poetry!

Join poet Laila Sumpton to explore the stories of inspiring local women past and present – the SHEroes of Lewisham. We'll write vivid narrative poems looking at different ways to combine story-telling with poetry.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Matchstick Theatre Company present SE8 Collective's PIECES OF EIGHT

Time: 1.30pm–3pm
Location: Matchstick Piehouse
Price: FREE

Join us for an afternoon of theatre that's all about Deptford, Deptford, Deptford – created by a group of local writers.

Pieces of Eight is a collection of drama, comedy and poetry that celebrates the people, places and stories of Deptford. With eight short pieces as diverse as the writers themselves, this event has something for everyone.

THE ORDINARY IS EXTRAORDINARY: Using the Senses to Write Better with LEONE ROSS

Time: 2pm–5pm
Location: Deptford Lounge Room 2
Price: £5
Access: BSL

A practical workshop designed to help you use touch, smell, sound, taste or sight to inspire and improve your sentences

Some of the best writers in the world create original, beautiful sentences, using their five senses. But how do you begin to write vividly, and how do you assess the effectiveness of your sensory writing? Fiction writer Leone Ross offers practical exercises to concentrate the mind on sensory detail and improve your sentences-in-progress.

Book your tickets: www.deptfordliteraturefestival.com

LEWISHAM WRITERS IN CONVERSATION

Caleb Azumah Nelson and Sara Jafari in conversation with Salma El-Wardany

Time: 3.30pm–4.30pm
Location: Deptford Lounge Main Hall
Price: FREE
Access: BSL

Join local writers Sara Jafari and Costa Prize-winner Caleb Azumah Nelson who are making their mark on the literary world.

They will read from their work and discuss their experiences creating literature in Deptford and Lewisham. With such talented writers re-establishing Deptford's position on the literary map, we look at what South East London means to them. This event will also be livestreamed.

INUA ELLAMS' R.A.P. PARTY
Inua Ellams + special guests

Time: 7.30pm–10.30pm
Location: The Albany
Price: £5
Access: BSL

Join award winning poet and playwright Inua Ellams for a night of poetry and hip-hop.

What might eloquent voices from contemporary poetry and spoken word movements have to say about hip-hop's past, present and future? Come chill and find out at Inua Ellams' Rhythm And Poetry Party, a nostalgic, no-clutter, no-fuss, night of hip-hop-inspired poems and favourite hip-hop songs. The line-up will feature an all-star cast of South London's finest poets, along with honorary South Londoners. Presented as part of Inua Ellams' O5Fest in association with the Albany and We Are Lewisham. This event will also be livestreamed.

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY EVENTS

A day of special events for younger members of our community and their families. Four events are delivered in partnership with Round Table Books.

All children's and family events take place at **Deptford Lounge Children's Library**, 9 Giffin St, London, SE8 4RJ and are BSL interpreted. Paid for events are priced at £2 per child and each ticket provides you with £2 off any book purchase at the Round Table Books Festival bookstall on the day. Parents, guardians or carers must stay with their children during these events. Free tickets are available for Lewisham residents on low incomes – please see our website for details. Booking in advance is required.

FLAVIA Z. DRAGO: *GUSTAVO THE SHY GHOST*

Time: 10am–11am
Age recommendation: 2–4 years
Access: BSL

Join author and illustrator Flavia Z. Drago to find out all about her creation: Gustavo the Shy Ghost. There will be storytelling, drawing and craft – you'll even be able to make your very own monster to take home.

LAURA HENRY-ALLAIN & ONYINYE IWU: *MY SKIN, YOUR SKIN*

Time: 11.30am–12.30pm
Age recommendation: 4–7 years
Access: BSL

In this session, Laura Henry-Allain MBE, creator of JoJo and Gran Gran, and Onyinye Iwu will offer a reading of *My Skin, Your Skin*. They will lead a question and answer session and a draw-along, where children will be able to draw, write and/or mark about their families, their uniqueness and what makes them great!

Lucas Vale Primary School & Friends of Brookmill Park present PARK LIFE POETRY with LAILA SUMPTON

Time: 1–1.30pm
FREE – just turn up!
Access: BSL

Come and join the children from Lucas Vale Primary School as they perform their Park Life polyvocal poem inspired by their explorations of Brookmill Park with poet Laila Sumpton and the Friends of Brookmill Park.

PLANET OMAR! with ZANIB MIAN

Round Table Books

Time: 2pm–3pm
Age recommendation: 7–10 years
Access: BSL

When his best friend Daniel messes up, Omar decides to take the blame – can his friends prove his innocence and show that he wasn't responsible for the chaos? Join former teacher Zanib for a fantastic event around this hilarious cartoon-style book.

An illustration workshop with DENZELL DANKWAH, illustrator of *SUPERHEROES*

Round Table Books

Time: 3.30–4.30pm
Age recommendation: 10+ years
Access: BSL

Superheroes is a book filled with inspiring journeys, to encourage and empower you to harness your power and become your own superhero. Discover the new daring tales of inspiration from over fifty British icons, who have each harnessed their curiosity and ambition and turned it into their own superhero power. Join Denzell Dankwah for a comic-style illustration workshop, and a question and answer session.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

In addition to its public programme, Deptford Literature Festival is delivering community engagement projects in the local area.

PARK LIFE POETRY

Working with Lucas Vale Primary School, the Friends of Brookmill Park, and local poet Laila Sumpton, Park Life Poetry has connected pupils to their local park through poetry workshops, natural world observation, writing and performance. Children took part in sessions that introduced them to the park and learnt from experts about its nature: plants, birds, bats and river life. The children's poems will be available to pick up in a special project pamphlet, and they will perform their polyvocal poem as part of our family programme.

YOUTH FIRST

Youth First are Lewisham's youth service provider, running youth centres and playgrounds across the borough. They have been working with the Festival across February/March to engage local young people with literature. Participants aged 11-13 worked across February half term to create a film-in-a-day which will have rolling screenings between 10am-4pm in Deptford Lounge. Older participants have partnered with Inua Ellams around his R.A.P. Party, working with a DJ to learn how to mix, and creating their own hip-hop inspired writing.

ENTELECHY ARTS: *YOU SHOULD GO TO EVERYWHERE*

Entelechy Arts creates exciting and challenging art forged from the collision of different worlds and life experiences. Throughout January – April, they are cultivating poetry by residents at Manley Court nursing home with artists Zoe Gilmour and Charlene Low, poet Annie Hayter and the care home activities team Theo Johnson and Ngawang Lodup.

MATCHSTICK THEATRE COMPANY'S SE8 COLLECTIVE

Throughout the spring, local theatre company Matchstick Theatre have partnered with the Festival to bring together a collective of 8 local writers, for a course of workshops and mentoring. The result is Pieces of Eight, which will be performed at Matchstick Piehouse at 1.30pm.

EMPRESS & ANIYA READ-A-LONG

Deptford Green Secondary School are working with the Festival and with children's publisher Knights Of to host a read-a-long of Candice Carty-Williams' first young adult novel *Empress & Aniya*. Year 9 pupils will receive a copy of the book, talk with the author and learn about careers in literature with the publisher. Other schools can take part, with teaching resources available on the Festival website.

ACCESS

Events marked with BSL are BSL interpreted.

All events except When the Tide Is Out are wheelchair accessible, with accessible toilets. There is a steep ramp outside The Greenhouse Deptford – staff are happy to help.

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

If you require additional access in order to attend the Festival, for example larger print handouts at workshops, or a Scribe, or anything else you may need to ensure you can take part, please get in touch: **festival@spreadtheword.org.uk**

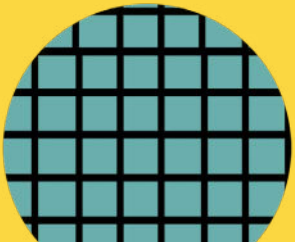
COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS – Keeping You Safe

Keeping you safe is our priority. Please make sure you check our website and your ticket email confirmations and reminders for the most up to date COVID-19 guidance to help ensure your safety and wellbeing at Deptford Literature Festival.

HOW TO BOOK

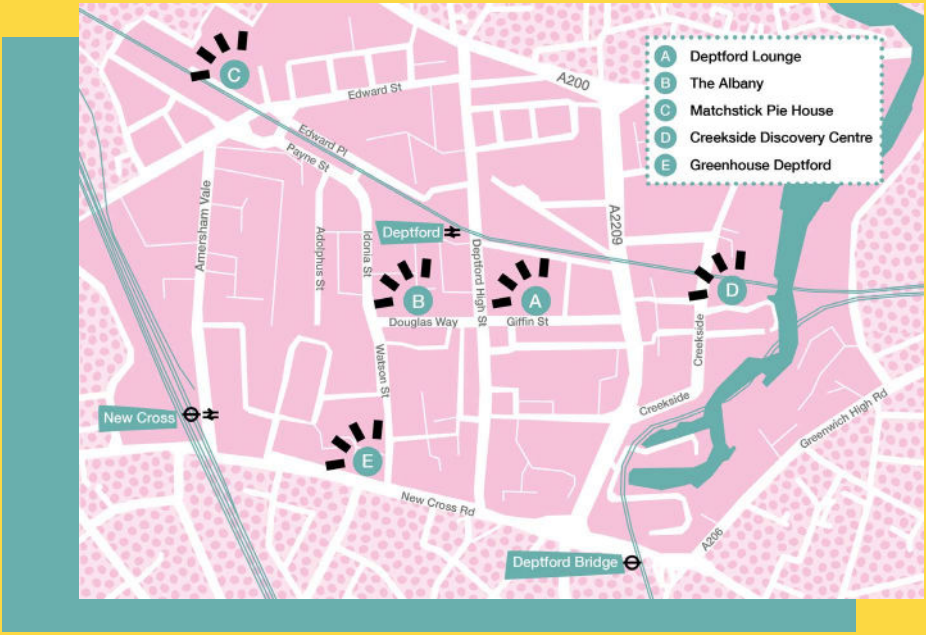
For more info and to book your place please visit **www.deptfordliteraturefestival.com**

A number of free places are available for Ella Frears', Leone Ross' and Jamie Hale's workshops and Inua Ellams' R.A.P. Party, and all the children's and family events, for Lewisham residents on low incomes.



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 and evening.



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 / 224 /253

Bike parking: there are spaces outside Deptford Lounge and the Albany. For more spaces in Deptford check: https://activethings.app/home

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.

DEPTFORD LITERATURE FESTIVAL

THANKS

We are grateful to our principal funders Arts Council England. Thanks also to the Albany and Deptford Lounge for their support, and to We Are Lewisham, London Borough of Culture 2022 for support with the Creative Challenge, The Food On Our Table and Film in a Day. Thanks to the Town Centre Small Grants Fund for support with marketing and promotional materials.

Thank you to our partners Lucas Vale Primary, the Friends of Brookmill Park, Deptford Green School, Entelechy Arts, Greenhouse Deptford, Matchstick Piehouse, Round Table Books, Creekside Discovery Centre and Youth First.

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

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

HM Government

European Union
European Regional Development Fund

Lewisham

WE ARE LEWISHAM

LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

SPREAD THE WORD