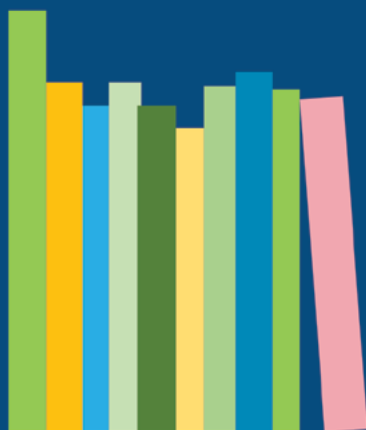


MK
LIT FEST

CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES
14 -15 APRIL 2023

DETAILS AND TICKETS:
WWW.MKLITFEST.ORG



SPRINGS BACK

A FABULOUS FESTIVAL OF BOOKS, WORDS,
WRITERS AND IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

AUTHOR TALKS AND CONVERSATIONS
WRITING WORKSHOPS — CHILDREN'S EVENTS

SINCLAIR McKAY ————— **RHIAN TRACEY**
TOM CONAGHAN (SCRATCH BOOKS) • **KIT DE WAAL**
LIZZIE DAMILOLA BLACKBURN ————— **SARAH COYLE**
JOHN McCULLOUGH ————— **JOHN GRINDROD**
RUSSELL JONES ————— **JENNIFER SAINT**
MINK2023 AWARD CEREMONY AND ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

FRIDAY, 14 APRIL

SINCLAIR MCKAY - 50 CODES THAT CHANGED THE WORLD...

6 - 7PM • WATERSTONES • £8

... and your chance to solve them. **Sinclair McKay** (bestselling author of *Bletchley Park Brainteasers* and *Secret Britain*) will reveal uncrackable codes, secret cyphers and hidden messages, from the spectacular achievements of Bletchley Park to a thousand years of codebreaking history.

SATURDAY, 15 APRIL

JOHN GRINDROD - *ICONICON*

10 - 11AM • CENTRAL LIBRARY • £8

Join MK-based writer **John Grindrod** in conversation about his witty and diverting architectural odyssey *Iconicon: A Journey Around the Landmark Buildings of Contemporary Britain*. Looking at what has been built since 1980, John will be exploring what that tells us about our dreams and reality as a nation.

THE ART OF THE SHORT STORY

MASTERCLASS WITH TOM CONAGHAN (SCRATCH BOOKS)

11AM - 12.30PM • CENTRAL LIBRARY • £15

(LIMITED PLACES)

Tom Conaghan, the editor of *Scratch Books*, talks us through the methods and processes of the most brilliant short story writers (including Sarah Hall, Tessa Hadley, George Saunders and Jon McGregor) to explore what makes good openings, strong escalations and breathtaking endings. We'll learn how different writers decide what's 'good enough'.

KIT DE WAAL - *WITHOUT WARNING AND ONLY SOMETIMES*

11.30AM - 12.30PM • CENTRAL LIBRARY • £8

Kit de Waal's memoir, *Without Warning and Only Sometimes*, is the story of an extraordinary childhood. Join the award-winning writer in conversation about how a girl who grew up in a house where the Bible was the only book on offer went on to discover a love of reading that inspires her to this day.

SARAH COYLE - *PICK A STORY*

1 - 2PM • CENTRAL CHILDREN'S LIBRARY • £5

Join author **Sarah Coyle** for a unique *Pick A Story* event where the audience decides what happens every step of the way! Do you want to fight the pirates? Bake with unicorns? Pick souvenirs for aliens on their holidays? The choice is all yours.

AGES 5 - 9

LIZZIE DAMILOLA BLACKBURN - *YINKA, WHERE IS YOUR HUSBAND?*

1 - 2PM • CENTRAL LIBRARY • £8

Discover MK's bestselling author and her sparkling debut. **Lizzie Damilola Blackburn** won the Literary Consultancy Pen Factor Writing Competition with the early draft of *Yinka, Where is your Husband?*, now a *Times* bestseller and one of *Marie Claire's* Books of 2022. She has been at the receiving end of the question in the title of her novel many times!

SCHOOLING THE STRANGE - POETRY WORKSHOP WITH JOHN MCCULLOUGH

1.30 - 3.30PM • CENTRAL LIBRARY • £20

(LIMITED PLACES)

Hawthornden and Polari Prize winning poet and MK Lit Fest favourite **John McCullough** returns - in-person at last! - to run a workshop that will help you to surprise yourself - as well as your readers - by trying new approaches and techniques in your poetry.

RUSSELL JONES - *THE DECADE IN TORY* 2.30 - 3.30PM • CENTRAL LIBRARY • £8

Join **Russell Jones** on *The Decade in Tory*, his inglorious, rollicking and entirely true account of ten years of demonstrable lies, relentless incompetence and epic waste oozing from 10 Downing Street. With his signature scathing wit, it will leave you gasping and wondering: can things possibly get any worse?

RHIAN TRACEY - *SECRETS AND SPIES* 3 - 4PM • CENTRAL CHILDREN'S LIBRARY • £5

Rhian Tracey will share her inside knowledge about what really went on at Bletchley Park during the war, and the inspiration behind her team of spies in her new book, *I, Spy*, inspired by true events. You will also get the chance to learn how to create a Codebreaking Character when you put your own spying skills to the test.

AGES 8+

MINK 2023 ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH - *GREEN SPACES IN THE CITY*

4 - 4.45PM • CENTRAL LIBRARY • £FREE

Join us and the winners of our 2023 Creative Writing Competition, *Green Spaces in the City*, as we hear them read their winning poems and short stories and launch the publication of our third anthology of local and regional writing.

JENNIFER SAINT - *ATALANTA* 6 - 7PM • WATERSTONES MIDSUMMER PLACE • £8

The no. 1 bestselling author of *Ariadne* and *Elektra* joins us with her brand-new novel, *Atalanta*. Discover how **Jennifer Saint** brings the formidable heroine and her adventures amidst the Argonauts to vibrant life in her vivid reimagining of Greek mythology.

TICKETS

Visit our website at WWW.MKLITFEST.ORG for links to our Box Office.

Tickets will be on sale online until 1 hour before the start of each event. Where individual events have not sold out, tickets will be available on the door on a first come, first served basis.

FOLLOW US

You can follow MK Lit Fest on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for regular updates: we are @MKLITFEST on all these platforms. You can also subscribe to our email newsletter for regular updates on all our activities: visit our website to subscribe.

LOCATIONS

The Lit Fest Springs Back! events are taking place in Milton Keynes Central Library, 555 Silbury Blvd, MK9 3HL and in Waterstones Milton Keynes, Unit 72, Midsummer Place, MK9 3GA (Sinclair McKay and Jennifer Saint events only). The workshop events are hosted by Community Learning Milton Keynes, situated within the Central Library. Please check the individual event listing to confirm its location.

YOUR QUESTIONS

We have endeavoured to answer likely questions about parking, public transport, catering, accessibility and so on in an FAQs page on our website. If these do not answer your particular enquiry, the website also has a Contact Us form and we'll reply to your question as soon as we are able.

Programme correct at time of printing. Please see website for any updates.

OUR PARTNERS

