



# SPRING INTO SUMMER WITH MILTON KEYNES LIT FEST



## Dreams for Beltane: Celebrating the First of May

Thurs 1 May, Zoom, 7.00pm; £3/£2

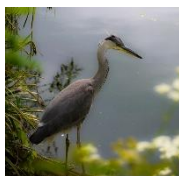
Mark Beltane, International Labour Day and countless other historic anniversaries with us as we present a gala of original writing from local writer that celebrates one of the many facets of this oh so significant date. **Submissions close: 12 April 2025**



## Ash Bhardwaj - Why We Travel

Wed 7 May, Waterstones MK, 7.00pm; £5

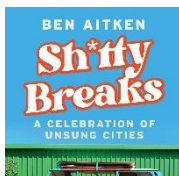
Award-winning journalist, podcaster & broadcaster **Ash Bhardwaj** explores the life-enhancing journey into human motivation that inspired his debut book *Why We Travel* – the *Independent's* Travel Book of the Year 2024.



## A Green City Literary Walk

Sun 11 May, CMK Railway Station, starts 2.00am; £Free

Let the writers of Milton Keynes take you for a literary adventure as we stroll with them around the Teardrop Lakes and Loughton Valley Park, spinning poems and tales with a twist selected from our fabulous #Mink anthologies.



## Ben Aitken - Sh\*tty Breaks: A Celebration of Unsung Cities

Wed 21 May, Waterstones MK, 7.00pm; £5

Award-winning travel author and journalist **Ben Aitken** talks about how he discovered some of the UK's most charming unsung cities – Milton Keynes included! Ben will also be signing copies of the book and all ticketholders receive a complimentary beverage.



## Sarah Pinborough – We Live Here Now

Wed 4 June, Waterstones MK, 7.00pm; £5

Milton Keynes' award-winning author of bestselling breakout novel (and hit Netflix show) *Behind Her Eyes*, returns with a haunting Gothic novel about a house – and a marriage – gone terribly wrong as two people realise that *We Live Here Now*.

And there'll be much more to announce!

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## An Evening with Andrey Kurkov: *The Literature and Politics of Ukraine*

Wed 11 June, Zoom, 7.00pm; £8/£6

Author of bestseller *Death and the Penguin*, Andrey Kurkov, ambassador for Ukraine's literature, culture and independence, shares his insights on literature, politics, and language.



## A Short Story Masterclass: *Writing and Place*

Wed 2 July, Zoom, 7.00pm; £15/£12; tickets available shortly

In the first of a series of masterclass events to support our citywide **Raising Voices Project**, acclaimed writers and editors **Paul McVeigh** and **Cathy Galvin** lead a masterclass that looks at how the short story can capture and convey a captivating sense of location.



## An Evening with Sally Smith

Wed 16 July, Waterstones MK, 7.00pm; £5

Journalist, writer and sportswoman **Sally Smith** talks about her most recent books, *The Women Who Went Round the World* and *Magnificent Women and Flying Machines*: fascinating stories of ground breaking women at very different times of history.



## You and Me: marking International Day of Friendship

Wed 30 July, Zoom, 7.00pm; £3/£2

Friendship is one of the foundations of human experience. Young or old, male or female, single or married... our friends are a source of joy, comfort, support - and otherwise! **Submit your poem or flash fiction for our online event by 30 June 2025.**



## Digging in the Dirt: *Adventures in Eco-poetry (Masterclass Event)*

Tue 5 August, Zoom, 7.00pm; £15/£12

A 90-minute masterclass for our Raising Voices Project and for Give Peat A Chance. Eco-poets **Clare Shaw**, **Jess Mookherjee**, **Caleb Parkin** & **Rishi Dastidar** explore place, location and environment, in collaboration with Poets for the Planet.

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