

EVENT LIST

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Bibliotherapy – Southern Style!	St Mary's Church Hall, Port St Mary	6.15pm-7.45pm	FREE - email rakie.bennett@familylibrary.im or call 640650 to reserve places
Open Mic Poetry Slam 2019	Port St Mary Town Hall	8.00pm-10.30pm	£4 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Wildflower walk around Conrhenny Plantation – with Simon Smart	Conrhenny Plantation	2.00pm-4.00pm	£4 - www.eventbrite.com/e/manx-litfest-wildflower-walk-tickets-69400620123
The Flood book launch – author Rachel Bennett	Family Library, Douglas	6.00pm-7.15pm	FREE - email info@familylibrary.im or call 640650 to reserve seats
Slacker-in-Law – with poet Mark Grist	Vagabonds Rugby Club	8.00pm-9.30pm	£10 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The Book Fanatics' Quiz Night	Cronkbourne Sports and Social Club, Tromode	8.00pm-10.30pm	£8 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

What does 'Show Not Tell' actually mean? – Emma Sweeney workshop	The West Room, Port St Mary Town Hall	11.00am-2.00pm	£35 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
Juno Dawson: Queen of Teen!	Youth Arts Centre, Douglas	6.00pm-7.30pm	£5 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
Worlds of Science Fiction and Fantasy – in conversation with Emma Newman and Gareth L. Powell	Youth Arts Centre, Douglas	8.00pm-9.30pm	£8 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
The Forgotten Tales – storyteller Jon Buckeridge from Parable Arts	Ballakermeen Studio Theatre	8.00pm-9.30pm	£10 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Writers' Day	King William's College	9am-4.00pm	£30 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
The Storyteller's Toolkit workshops	King William's College	11.00am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.00pm	£10 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
Storytelling and Drawing with Nadia Shireen	Family Library, Douglas	10.30am-11.30am	FREE - email info@familylibrary.im or call 640650 to reserve places
Chris Priestley's <i>Tales of Terror!</i>	Foxdale School	1.00pm-3.30pm	FREE - email bookings@manxlitfest.com to reserve places
A Celebration of Literary Sisterhood	King's Court Theatre	4.00pm-5.15pm	FREE - to reserve places - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
Must You Become Evil to be a Great Artist?	St Ninian's Church	6.00pm-7.30pm	£7 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
An Evening with Frank Cottrell-Boyce	St Ninian's Church	8.00pm-9.30pm	£15 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Runaway Robot	Youth Arts Centre, Douglas	11.00am-12.30pm	£5 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
Planet in Peril poetry workshop	Henry Bloom Noble Library	11.00am-1.00pm	£20 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
Planet in Peril open mic	Youth Arts Centre, Douglas	2.00pm-3.30pm	FREE - to reserve places - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
Short Story Slam	Youth Arts Centre, Douglas	4.00pm-6.30pm	FREE - to reserve places - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest
The Once and Future King	Erin Arts Centre	8.00pm-9.00pm	£10 - ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest

General enquiries – email manxlitfest@gmail.com or visit manxlitfest.com



24th - 29th September

Our Supporters



KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE



Bridge Bookshop
Port Erin & Ramsey



Literary sisterhoods, forgotten tales, evil artists, sci-fi worlds, runaway robots, ecopoetry... and a washed-up pub singer who goes by the name of Merlin.

Since we launched Litfest in 2012, we've tried to ensure that each festival has something for everyone, whatever your literary tastes – and we are particularly proud of this year's wonderfully mixed assortment. We have climate change, poetry, crime fiction, sci-fi, fantasy, wildflowers, folklore, one of Britain's top LGBT authors, and the man who wrote the opening ceremony to the 2012 London Olympics.

That man is author and screenwriter Frank Cottrell-Boyce. If you've watched TV or movies over the last 35 years, the chances are you'll have seen some of Frank's work – he has written for *Coronation Street*, *Brookside* and *Doctor Who*, and a host of movies, working with some of the world's leading directors. An Evening with Frank is our headline event on the Saturday night.

We are thrilled to have novelist, screenwriter, and columnist Juno Dawson with us. Much of Juno's work features LGBT characters and issues, and she represents the LGBT charity Stonewall as a School Role Model. She's another of our visiting guests with *Doctor Who* on her CV – last year Juno wrote *The Good Doctor*, one of the first novels to feature the Thirteenth Doctor, played by Jodie Whittaker in the TV series.

This year's festival features our first proper venture into the worlds of science fiction and fantasy, with authors Emma Newman and Gareth L. Powell, who will both be involved with our Schools' Day visits on Friday and Writers' Day on Saturday. Joining Juno, Emma and Gareth for school visits are authors and illustrators Nadia Shireen and Chris Priestley, poet Mark Grist and storyteller Jon Buckeridge. Jon has two shows, including the debut performance of *The Once and Future King*, featuring a somewhat dishevelled Merlin.

We do like a launch at Manx Litfest and there is one on the Wednesday evening that we are particularly proud of – it's *The Flood*, the debut crime novel from Rachel Bennett, who has been an integral part of Litfest since its earliest days.

Following the success of last year's 'Influential Women, Powerful Words' event, we're sure there will be a strong audience for 'A Celebration of Literary Sisterhood', with author Emma Claire Sweeney, which will explore the friendships of Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, and Virginia Woolf. Meanwhile, Tom Rachman, author of *The Italian Teacher*, has perhaps the most intriguing of all Manx Litfest event titles – 'Must You Become Evil to be a Great Artist?'

Our final day will see two events linked to a topic that is as important as it is hot – 'Planet in Peril'. An ecopoetry workshop will be led by poets Isabelle Kenyon and Janet Lees, followed by an open mic event based around the same theme, with the public invited to share their writing with the audience. Speaking of poets, it is a real pleasure to welcome back Mark Grist. Mark dazzled us when he visited in 2014 and he will compere the Poetry Slam, while performing his new show *Slacker-in-Law* the following night.

Our gratitude, as always, to our many sponsors and supporters, and our organising committee and volunteers, without whom the festival wouldn't be possible. The team would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Andrea Howroyd for her invaluable contribution and the energy she put into helping establish the festival. Litfest is a real community effort, with everyone playing their part – including you, our audience. We hope you enjoy the literary allsorts that we've served up for you this year.

Event schedule and ticket details

- 5 Tuesday September 24
- 6 Wednesday September 25
- 7 Thursday/Friday September 26/27
- 9 At-a-glance daily timetable

- 13 Friday September 27
- 14 Saturday September 28
- 17 Sunday September 29

Festival office: 8 Milner Close, Port Erin, Isle of Man, British Isles, IM9 6BG

Tickets: Please see individual events for details. Contact the Litfest team on the email address below if any queries Partner bookseller: Bridge Bookshop, Port Erin & Ramsey

Festival email: manxlitfest@gmail.com Festival website: www.manxlitfest.com

Design: Festival programme - Isle of Man Advertising & PR; Manx Litfest logo - Ali Crellin

Registered charity number 1100

Bridge Bookshop

is proud to support Manx Litfest

Find us selling books at festival venues across
the Island or visit our bookshops in
Port Erin and Ramsey



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Tel : 833376 / 813374 Email: mail@bridge-bookshop.com

Tuesday, September 24

Bibliotherapy – Southern Style!

6.15pm-7.45pm – St Mary's Church Hall, Bay View Road, Port St Mary

Come and join the team from the Mobile Library and see how they use books and artefacts to get you talking. This event will focus on the south of the Island, with topics including the tourism heyday of Port Erin and Port St Mary, WWII Internment, Cregneash and the Calf of Man. Come and share your memories of the south – beaches, B&Bs, sailing, fishing, soldiers and internees, and more. Find out how the Mobile Library uses its wide range of resources to promote well-being to combat loneliness and isolation – and have fun in a group setting.

Event sponsored by the Family Library & Mobile Library (familylibrary.im)

FREE EVENT – please reserve your place by contacting the Family Library on 640650 or email rakie.bennett@familylibrary.im



Open Mic Poetry Slam 2019

8.00pm-10.30pm – Port St Mary Town Hall, The Promenade

Held in conjunction with the team at Poetry Unlimited, the annual Poetry Slam sees many of the Island's poets battle it out for the honour of being named Poetry Slam champ. We are thrilled to have acclaimed poet Mark Grist as compere for the evening, which this year takes place in the beautiful south – the fine establishment of Port St Mary Town Hall. This is Mark's second visit to Litfest – he came over for our 2014 festival and compered the slam on that occasion too. The Poetry Slam roll of honour of previous champs – Bridge Carter (2012), Georgia Lisette (2013 & 2014), Jennifer Davies (2015), Lisa Creighton (2016), and Jackie Morrey-Grace (2017), while last year Howard Caine rode off into the sunset with the trophy. To enter this year's Slam, drop Bridge Carter a line: bridgecarter@mcb.net.

markgrist.com

Event sponsored by Bridge Bookshop (bridge-bookshop.com)

Tickets – £4.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey

Wednesday, September 25

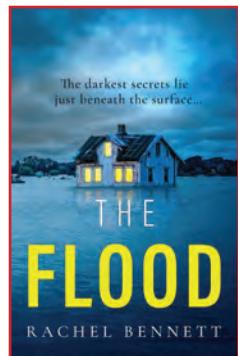
Wildflower walk around Conrhenny Plantation – with Simon Smart

2.00pm-4.00pm – Conrhenny Plantation, Creg-ny-Baa Back Road

To celebrate the release of a new book – *Isle of Man Wildflower Walks* – author Simon Smart, who runs Wildflowers of the Isle of Man, leads a walk around the beautiful Conrhenny Plantation to talk about the Island's plants and flowers, including some rare species. The walk begins from Conrhenny Plantation car park and proceeds through the plantation, looking at the plants and flowers to be found along the way and their uses, with species hopefully to include Lady's Mantle and Woundworts. The footpaths are wide and well-maintained and should be easy for most walkers, but please wear suitable footwear and clothing for the weather conditions.

Event sponsored by Wildflowers of the Isle of Man (manxwildflowers.com)

Tickets – £4.00 – www.eventbrite.com/e/manx-litfest-wildflower-walk-tickets-69400620123



The Flood book launch – author Rachel Bennett

6.00pm-7.15pm – Family Library, Westmoreland Road, Douglas

We are thrilled to host the launch of a new novel from Rachel Bennett, who has been involved with Litfest from its earliest days. Published by HarperCollins, *The Flood* is a gripping, atmospheric crime novel about a town on the edge of collapse, and a murder that shakes the community. Perfect for fans of THE DRY. Rachel will talk about the book – and happily sign copies!

harpercollins.com/author/cr-133844/rachel-bennett

Event sponsored by The Family Library (familylibrary.im)

FREE EVENT – please reserve your place by contacting the Family Library on 640650 or email info@familylibrary.im

Slacker-in-Law – with poet Mark Grist

8.00pm-9.30pm – Vagabonds Rugby Club, Ballafletcher Road, Braddan

Performance poet Mark Grist returns to Manx Litfest for the first time since 2014 to present his new show... *Slacker-in-Law!* How far would you go to impress your future mother-in-law? Mark brings a show packed full of comedy, poems, rap and... pugs? Featuring an unpredictable choose-your-own-adventure poem with over 6 million outcomes and a hip hop journey through all the baddies of your childhood, he's working his ass off, but will it ever be enough? Mark is an ex-English teacher, poet, battle rapper and 'viral sensation' (The Sun) with over 20 million views for his poetry and rap battle videos online. He starred in Channel 4's 'Mr Dew's School for boys', Redbull TV's 'Mark Grist Battles the World' and has recently produced commissions for BBC Radio 1, BBC 2, Channel 4 and Google.

markgrist.com

Event sponsored by But First Promotions (facebook.com/butfirstpromotions) & Marsh (marsh.com)

Tickets – £10.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey



Thursday, September 26

The Book Fanatics' Quiz Night

8.00pm-10.30pm – Cronkbourne Sports and Social Club, Tromode Road, Douglas

Join us for our annual literary laugh-fest as teams battle it out to be crowned the Island's bookish quiz champs. We have a new venue this year, but with the room capacity the same, make sure you have your teams sorted and tickets booked before you miss out on a chance to win The Book Fanatics' Quiz Night shield. As usual, teams should ideally have a maximum of six people, and we'll again have spot prizes up for grabs. Several of our visiting authors will be present on the night, so it's an early opportunity to meet them, and our partner bookseller, Bridge Bookshop, will have its pop-up bookshop selling titles from our visiting authors. Last year saw the closest finish in Litfest history, when the top two teams had to go through several tie-breaker rounds until a winner was declared – we can't promise that much excitement again this year, but we'll certainly try!

Event sponsored by Assist Consultancy (assist.im)

Tickets – £8.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey

Friday, September 27

Schools' Day

9.00am-3.30pm – Schools across the Island

An integral part of what Manx Litfest is all about – encouraging youngsters to read more and write more. We send a team of authors, illustrators, poets and storytellers – visiting and Island-based – out around primary and secondary schools to deliver a series of talks, workshops, readings and performances. Given the way the schedule has fallen this year and the travel plans of some of our guests, some school visits will take place on other days, but the vast majority will be on our traditional Schools' Day of Friday.



Rona Halsall on the Mobile Library



Isle of Man author Rona has enjoyed a fantastic 12 months since the publication of her first novel, the psychological thriller *Keep You Safe*, by Bookouture in August 2018. She has since published two more novels – *Love You Gone* and *The Honeymoon* – and sold a combined 100,000 copies in that time. Rona's next novel, *Her Mother's Lies*, will be out in October 2019. Rona had intended to be a guest on the Mobile Library during last year's Litfest, but sadly had to cancel it at short notice – we are delighted to rearrange it for this year's festival. The Mobile Library performs a vital service for our community, as a meeting place in the towns and villages where it makes regular stops, and provides a direct-to-your-door delivery service for avid readers who find it difficult to get out and about. The Library will be taking Rona north, to Andreas, Jurby, and Ramsey – drop by and say hello!

madeleinemilburn.co.uk/mm-authors/rona-halsall

Friday, September 27

What does 'Show Not Tell' actually mean? – writing workshop with author Emma Claire Sweeney

11.00am-2.00pm – The West Room, Port St Mary Town Hall

The maxim 'show not tell' is bandied around so often in creative writing courses that we rarely take the time to interpret and interrogate it. During this course, Emma Claire Sweeney will look at ways to 'show' well through creating compelling scenes and appealing to the senses in ways that are innovative and arresting. But she'll also ask whether 'telling' ever has a place in a novel. Through excerpts and exercises, Emma will reveal how and when to shift from action to reflection, scene to narration, 'showing' to 'telling'. Emma currently teaches creative writing at New York University, and has previously worked for Cambridge, City University's Novel Studio and the Open University. She is a fellow of Art and Cultural Studies Laboratory in Armenia and Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild in the USA, and has also held writing residencies at Camden Carers, Eastside Educational Trust, Circle of Misce and Sunnyside Rural Trust – which resulted in the publication of *The Memoir Garden*: a collection of poems from the words and experiences of adults with learning disabilities. She has written two books – *Owl Song at Dawn* and *A Secret Sisterhood* – and has won Arts Council, Royal Literary Fund and Escalator Awards, and has been shortlisted for several others.

emmaclairesweeney.com

Tickets – £35.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey

Juno Dawson: Queen of Teen!

6.00pm-7.30pm – Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas

Join us to hear Juno Dawson talk about her novels *Clean*, which was shortlisted for Waterstones' YA Book Award, and *Meat Market*, an emotionally searing insight into the world of high fashion. In 2015, Juno announced her intention to undergo gender transition and live as a woman. She is a regular contributor to Attitude Magazine, Glamour Magazine and The Guardian and has contributed to news items on BBC Women's Hour, Front Row, ITV News, Channel 5 News, This Morning and Newsnight concerning sexuality, identity, literature and education. Juno has written several novels for young adults, including *Hollow Pike*, *Margot & Me*, and *Spot the Difference*, which was written for 2016 World Book Day. She has won wide acclaim for her non-fiction titles on LGBT issues, including a guide to life for young LGBT people, *This Book is Gay*, while her book *Mind Your Head* featured everything a young person needs to know about mental health. Juno's debut book for adults was the memoir, *The Gender Games*, and last year she wrote *The Good Doctor*, the first Doctor Who adventure to feature 13th Doctor Jodie Whittaker. In June this year she published *What is Gender? How Does It Define Us? And Other Big Questions for Kids*.

junodawson.com

Event sponsored by Lingua Franca (linguafranca.im)

Tickets – £5.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey. You can purchase tickets for both this event and Worlds of Science Fiction and Fantasy for a combined price of £11.00



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25			
St Mary's Church Hall, Port St Mary	Port St Mary Town Hall, The Promenade	Conrhenny Plantation, Creg-ny-Baa Back Road	Family Library, Westmoreland Road, Douglas	Vagabonds Rugby Club, Ballaflletcher Road, Braddan
		Wildflower walk around Conrhenny Plantation – with Simon Smart 2.00pm-4.00pm		
				<i>The Flood</i> book launch – author Rachel Bennett 6.00pm-7.15pm
				Slacker-in-Law – with poet Mark Grist 8.00pm-9.30pm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26		FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27				
		Schools across the Island	The Mobile Library	The West Room, Port St Mary Town Hall	Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas	Studio Theatre, Ballakermen High School, Douglas
Cronkbourne Sports and Social Club, Tromode Road, Douglas		Rona Halsall on the Mobile Library around the north of the Island	What does 'Show Not Tell' actually mean? – writing workshop with author Emma Sweeney 11.00am-2.00pm		Juno Dawson: Queen of Feen! 6.00pm-7.30pm	
Schools' Day 9.00am-3.30pm						
The Book Fanatics' Quiz Night 8.00pm-10.30pm					Worlds of Science Fiction and Fantasy – in conversation with Emma Newman and Gareth L. Powell 8.00pm-9.30pm	<i>The Forgotten Tales</i> – storyteller Jon Buckeridge from Parable Arts 8.00pm-9.30pm
		SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28				
King William's College, Castletown	King's Court Theatre, King William's College	Family Library, Westmoreland Road, Douglas	Foxdale School	St Ninian's Church, St Ninian's Road, Douglas		
Writers' Day 9.00am-4.00pm	The Storyteller's Toolkit – workshops with Jon Buckeridge 11.00am-12.30pm and repeated at 1.30pm -3.00pm	Storytelling and Drawing with Nadia Shireen 10.30am-11.30am			Must You Become Evil to be a Great Artist? – author Tom Rachman 6.00pm-7.30pm	
	A Celebration of Literary Sisterhood – with author Emma Claire Sweeney 4.00pm-5.15pm		Chris Priestley's <i>Tales of Terror!</i> 1.00pm-3.30pm		An Evening with Frank Cottrell-Boyce 8.00pm-9.30pm	

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29	
Youth Arts Centre, Douglas	Henry Bloom Noble Library, Douglas
Runaway Robot – Frank Cottrell-Boyce 11.00am-12.30pm	Planet in Peril: Ecopoetry workshop 11.00am-1.00pm
Planet in Peril: Poetry Open Mic 2.00pm-3.30pm	Manx Litfest Short Story Slam Final – and announcement of Olive Lammming Writing Prize winners 4.00pm-6.30pm
Erin Arts Centre, Victoria Square, Port Erin	The Once and Future King – storyteller Jon Buckeridge of Parable Arts 8.00pm-9.00pm

Friday, September 27

Worlds of Science Fiction and Fantasy – in conversation with Emma Newman and Gareth L. Powell

8.00pm-9.30pm – Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas

Delve into the worlds of sci-fi and fantasy with award-winning authors Emma Newman and Gareth L. Powell, as they discuss their careers and how they conjure up new worlds to explore in their books. Emma won the British Fantasy Society Best Short Story Award 2015 for *A Woman's Place*, and *Between Two Thorns*, the first book in her *Split Worlds* urban fantasy series, was shortlisted for the BFS Best Novel and Best Newcomer 2014 awards. Her science-fiction novel, *After Atlas*, was shortlisted for the 2017 Arthur C. Clarke award and the third novel in the *Planetfall* series, *Before Mars*, was shortlisted for a British Science Fiction Association Best Novel award. Gareth has twice won the BSFA Award for Best Novel (*Ack-Ack Macaque* and *Embers of War*) and been shortlisted for the Seiun Awards in Japan, while *Embers of War* was also shortlisted for the 2018 Locus Awards. *Light of Impossible Stars*, the final book in the *Embers of War* trilogy, is published early next year.

enewman.co.uk • garethlpowell.com

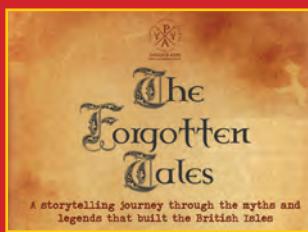
Event sponsored by ManSat Group (mansat.com)

Tickets – £8.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey. You can purchase tickets for both this event and Juno Dawson: Queen of Teen! for a combined price of £11.00



The Forgotten Tales – storyteller Jon Buckeridge from Parable Arts

8.00pm-9.30pm – Studio Theatre, Ballakermeen High School, Douglas



Storyteller Jon Buckeridge brings his epic show to Manx Litfest: *The Forgotten Tales* is a fast-paced one-man show that reignites the spark of stories that were once a steady flame across the land. Bringing together stories from across the British Isles, *The Forgotten Tales* will take you to on a journey from the hilarious to the heart-breaking and heroic. The British Isles are a tapestry woven with myths, legends and folktales. From Manx magicians to Cornish cats, the cultures of our kingdom are captured in our stories... but tales left untold will fade into forgetfulness. Jon visited the Island two years ago, performing

The Forgotten Tales – if you missed out, or enjoyed it so much last time that you want to see it again, this is your chance. Jon is also performing his new show – *The Once and Future King* – at Erin Arts Centre on Sunday, September 29 – see below for details on a combined ticket price.

parablearts.co.uk

Tickets – £10.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey. You can purchase tickets for both *The Forgotten Tales* and *The Once and Future King* for a special price of £18.00

Saturday, September 28

Writers' Day

9.00am-4.00pm – King William's College, Castletown

Our main event for writers, with something for everyone, whatever stage your writing is at – panel discussions, talks, writing masterclasses, storytelling workshops and one-to-one pitch slots with literary agent Jonathan Ruppin. Among those taking part this year are visiting authors Emma Newman, Emma Claire Sweeney, Gareth L. Powell and Tom Rachman, while storyteller Jon Buckeridge will run workshops focusing on developing characterisations (see The Storyteller's Toolkit below). Writers' Day provides an incredible opportunity to learn more about the writing craft, meet and talk to fellow writers, and make invaluable contacts within the industry. The highly sought-after agent pitch slots tend to go quickly – if you have a manuscript ready and are interested in booking a slot, please email us on the address below.

Regular tea & coffee and a buffet lunch is included in the price.

ruppinagency.com

Event sponsored by *PokerStars* (pokerstars.com)

Tickets – £30.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey. To enquire about agent slots (which cost an additional £25), please email bookings@manxlitfest.com

Calling all writers...

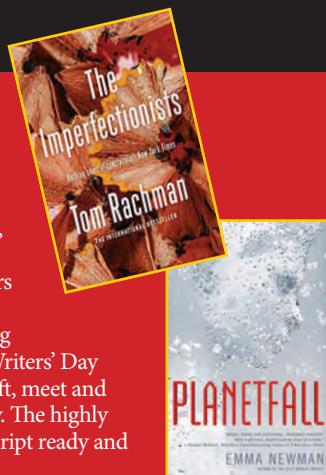
Stop procrastinating. Start writing.

Give yourself space to be creative, away from the distractions of work, family, TV, and endless to-do lists. Come along to the Writers Retreat at Baie Mooar guesthouse, Ramsey on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th October 2019. Overnight accommodation and meals included. For prices and details contact Rakie at bookings@manxlitfest.com

Manx Litfest Writers' Group

The group meets monthly to share ideas and news...
and, of course, write!

To find out more, email manxlitfestwritersgroup@gmail.com



Saturday, September 28

The Storyteller's Toolkit – workshops with Jon Buckeridge

11.00am-12.30pm and repeated at 1.30pm-3.00pm – King's Court Theatre, King William's College



Whether you are new to storytelling or an experienced raconteur, Jon Buckeridge from Parable Arts will help you improve your techniques by using your body to create solid characterisations and add variety to your storytelling style. Since graduating from the University of Wales in 2007, Jon has developed a broad experience of stage and screen performance, as well as establishing himself as an expert storyteller, gifted singer and multi-instrumentalist. Jon established Parable Arts in 2014, to explore the art of storytelling, 'bringing forgotten and half-remembered stories to life, and providing them a platform to shine'. His one-man production, *The Forgotten Tales*, has received critical acclaim at venues and festivals across the country. In addition to Parable, Jon is an ECSPC-qualified performance combat instructor and fight director, and runs his own stage combat company, Action Combat Choreography.

Please note – these workshops are also open to those attending our Writers' Day at King William's College. If you are attending Writers' Day, you don't need to buy a separate ticket for Jon's workshops. parablearts.co.uk

Tickets – £10.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey.

Storytelling and Drawing with Nadia Shireen

10.30am-11.30am – Family Library, Westmoreland Road, Douglas

One for our younger book readers as children's author and illustrator Nadia Shireen visits the Family Library. Nadia's books include her debut *Good Little Wolf*, which won the UKLA Book Award, and *The Bumblebear*, for which 700,000 copies were distributed to schoolchildren across the UK as part of Book Trust's 'Time To Read' campaign. Last year Nadia became Book Trust's official Writer in Residence. Her books have been shortlisted for the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, The Sainsbury's Book Award and the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize. Her most recent stories feature Billy the fearless heroine – *Billy and the Beast* and *Billy and the Dragon*.

nadiashireen.org

Event sponsored by Family Library (familylibrary.im)

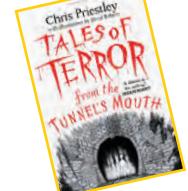
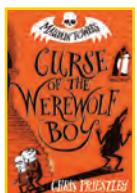
FREE EVENT – please reserve your place by contacting the Family Library on 640650 or email info@familylibrary.im

Chris Priestley's Tales of Terror!

1.00pm-3.30pm – Foxdale School

Come and join in the terrifying fun as author and illustrator Chris Priestley brings his dark stories to Foxdale School for a bone-chilling afternoon of storytelling and drawing! Chris's books have been nominated for many awards including the Edgar Awards, the UKLA Children's Book Award and the Carnegie Medal. His *Tales of Terror* series for Bloomsbury feature chilling stories rooted in the tradition of M R James, Saki and Edgar Allan Poe, while Mister Creecher is a novel inspired by, and linked to, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. Chris's latest book is *Curse of the Werewolf Boy*, the first in a funny middle-grade series called Maudlin Towers. Chris's books are for ages 8/9+, and joining him will be storytellers Su Rosso and Simon Smart from the Isle of Man Storytelling Tent, who will help keep younger siblings (and their adults) entertained. chrispriestleybooks.com • storytellingiom.com

FREE EVENT – to reserve places on the drawing workshops, please email bookings@manxlitfest.com



Saturday, September 28

A Celebration of Literary Sisterhood – with author Emma Claire Sweeney

4.00pm-5.15pm – King's Court Theatre, King William's College, Castletown

Male literary friendships are the stuff of legend; think Byron and Shelley, Fitzgerald and Hemingway. But the world's best-loved female authors are usually mythologized as solitary eccentrics or isolated geniuses. Emma Claire Sweeney set out with friend and fellow author Emily Midorikawa to prove this wrong, and the result was *A Secret Sisterhood: The Literary Friendships of Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, and Virginia Woolf*, a book that delves into the friendship between Jane Austen and one of the family servants, playwright Anne Sharp; the daring feminist author Mary Taylor, who shaped the work of Charlotte Brontë; the transatlantic friendship of the seemingly aloof George Eliot and Harriet Beecher Stowe; and Virginia Woolf and Katherine Mansfield, most often portrayed as bitter foes, but who, in fact, enjoyed a complex friendship fired by an underlying erotic charge. Through letters and diaries that have never been published before, *A Secret Sisterhood* resurrects these forgotten stories of female friendships.

This event takes place directly after Writers' Day at King William's College – those attending Writers' Day are welcome to stay on afterward to hear Emma talk.

emmaclairesweeney.com

FREE EVENT – to reserve your places – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest



Must You Become Evil to be a Great Artist? - author Tom Rachman

6.00pm-7.30pm – St Ninian's Church, St Ninian's Road, Douglas

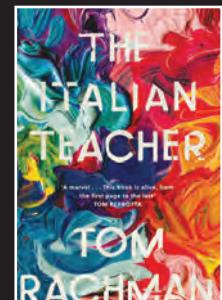


The arts aren't only about beauty. In secret, this field is sometimes marked by hideous tales of distress and damage, often committed by the same greats we venerate. Why does ghastly behaviour occur among some creative types? Does their public work somehow require private cruelty? Or is that an excuse? And, in the wake of the 'Me Too' movement, can society keep condoning awful personal conduct by the greats? The Costa Award-nominated author of *The Italian Teacher* and other bestselling novels, Tom Rachman will offer peeks into the private workings of the arts, stirring heated

debate on why beauty can be such an ugly business. *The Italian Teacher* is Tom's latest novel, which delves into the art world and tells the story of artist Bear Bavinsky, a larger-than-life character, and his son, Pinch, who lives in his shadow. In addition to being shortlisted for the Costa Prize, the novel was shortlisted for the Sky Arts Award and named in the Top 10 of the year by USA Today.

tomrachman.com

Tickets – £7.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey. You can purchase tickets for both this event and An Evening with Frank Cottrell-Boyce for a combined price £20.00



Saturday, September 28

An Evening with Frank Cottrell-Boyce

8.00pm-9.30pm – St Ninian's Church, St Ninian's Road, Douglas



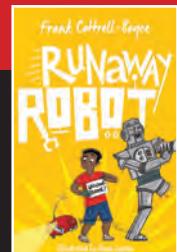
An evening not to be missed, with raconteur Frank Cottrell-Boyce talking to Manx Radio's Christy DeHaven about his career. One of the leading British screenwriters and children's authors, Frank wrote the BAFTA-nominated and Emmy Award-winning *Isles of Wonder* – the opening ceremony for the 2012 London Olympics – which he devised with his friend, director Danny Boyle. Frank has written for both *Coronation Street* and *Doctor Who*, and his film credits include *The Railway Man*, starring Colin Firth, *Hilary and Jackie*, for which he was nominated for a BAFTA, *Goodbye Christopher Robin*, which starred Margot Robbie, and several movies with director Michael Winterbottom – including *Welcome to Sarajevo*, *24-Hour Party People* and *A Cock and Bull Story*. Frank's children's books include *Millions*, for which he won the Carnegie Medal and which he adapted for the big screen (it was also directed by Danny Boyle) and three *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* novels. literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/frank-cottrell-boyce

Tickets – £15.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey. You can purchase tickets for both this event and Must You Become Evil to be a Great Artist? for a combined price £20.00

Sunday, September 29

Runaway Robot – Children's Author Frank Cottrell-Boyce

11.00am-12.30pm – Youth Arts Centre, Douglas



Runaway Robot is a funny and heart-warming adventure about two best friends helping put themselves back together, from the award-winning Frank Cottrell-Boyce, and illustrated by Steven Lenton. When Alfie goes to Airport Lost Property, he finds more than he bargained for. A lot more. Because there's a giant robot called Eric hidden away on the shelves. Eric has lost one leg and half his memory. He's super strong, but super clumsy. He's convinced that he's the latest technology, when he's actually nearly one hundred years old and ready for the scrap heap. Can Alfie find a way to save Eric from destruction - before Eric destroys everything around him?

literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/frank-cottrell-boyce

Tickets – £5.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey

Planet in Peril: Ecopoetry workshop

11.00am-1.00pm – Henry Bloom Noble Library, Douglas



This special ecopoetry workshop is inspired by *Planet in Peril*, a new anthology for our time featuring poetry, photography and art by creatives from across the globe, who have united to express the urgency of climate and ecological breakdown. The anthology's editor, Isabelle Kenyon, will be co-hosting the workshop with Island-based poet Janet Lees, who has a poem included in the book. Isabelle and Janet will use writing exercises to help you create new poems on the *Planet in Peril* theme, and you'll have the opportunity to share your work in the poetry open mic session in the afternoon. Open to poets of all ages.

janetlees.weebly.com • flyonthewallpoetry.co.uk

Tickets – £20.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey

Planet in Peril: Poetry Open Mic

2.00pm-3.30pm – Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas

This open mic poetry event is inspired by the newly launched *Planet in Peril* anthology which features poetry, photography and art from across the globe, addressing climate and ecological breakdown. Come and share your poems on climate and ecology at what promises to be a powerful event, hosted by the anthology's editor Isabelle Kenyon and poet Janet Lees. Open to poets of all ages. There will be copies of the 128-page hardback anthology available to buy, with 20% of profits going to WWF and the Climate Coalition.

FREE EVENT – to reserve your places – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest

Manx Litfest Short Story Slam Final – and announcement of Olive Lamming Writing Prize winners

4.00pm-6.30pm – Youth Arts Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas

The fifth Short Story Slam sees writers competing for the coveted shield (kindly donated by Zoe Cannell, who won the first Slam back in 2015) – and a free pass to all events at Manx Litfest 2020! Pam Teare won the title in 2016, with Benjamin Hickey triumphant in 2017 and Kim Kneen victorious last year. This

is a free event, both to enter a story and to attend. To register a story, and to get the full rules, email manxlitfest@gmail.com – the closing date to register entries is Wednesday, September 11. Depending on the number of entries received, we may need to hold two heats in the run-up to the festival, with the best stories from each heat going through to the final.

At half-time, we'll be announcing the winners of the relaunched Olive Lamming Writing Prize, which was open to poets and short story writers based in the Isle of Man. The poetry competition was judged by Usha Kishore and Janet Lees, with the Elizabeth Brooks and Rona Halsall running the rule over the short stories.

FREE EVENT – to reserve your places – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest



The Once and Future King – storyteller Jon Buckeridge of Parable Arts

8.00pm-9.00pm – Erin Arts Centre, Victoria Square, Port Erin



Storyteller Jon Buckeridge brings the curtain down on Manx Litfest 2019 with a new show – *The Once and Future King*, based on the legend of King Arthur: Merlin is old... really old. He's lived twenty lifetimes and each one has made him more dismal and depressed than the last. Now a washed-up pub-singer with a serious drinking problem and an even more serious inability to die, his only comfort is to look back at times gone by. Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot, Camelot; the ghosts of his past are always with him. If you buy him a drink, he'll tell you all about them. He'll probably tell you about them even if you don't. The Arthurian legends are woven into the very fabric of Celtic Britain and have inspired and delighted audiences from all over the world for hundreds of years. Parable Arts is proud to present its own inventive and irreverent take on these timeless tales, blending live music with skilful storytelling, this heartfelt and hilarious production re-imagines King Arthur and the court of Camelot with a sincerely sardonic spin.

parablearts.co.uk

Tickets – £10.00 – ticketsource.co.uk/manxlitfest – also available from Bridge Bookshop in Port Erin and Ramsey. You can purchase tickets for both *The Forgotten Tales* and *The Once and Future King* for a special price of £18.00

THE VENUES AROUND DOUGLAS

Letter	Venue	Poem	Poet
A	Douglas Development Partnership, 13 Church Street	<i>Beautiful Island of Mann</i>	Jim Finn
B	Noa Bakehouse, Market Hall, North Quay	<i>I am dandelion</i>	Hazel Teare
C	Spill the Beans, 1 Market Hill	<i>The Old Mill at Ballaglass</i>	Liz Boakes
D	Henry Bloom Noble Library, 8 Duke Street	<i>More than just a name</i>	Sarah Ward
E	WH Smith, Sea Terminal	<i>If I were to catch a star</i>	Jacqui Mulvagh
F	Waterstones, 25 Strand Street	<i>The apple of an eye</i>	David Garrett
G	WH Smith, 48-50 Strand Street	<i>Another day without you</i>	Jane Rogers
H	Studio 1, 3 Granville St	<i>Happiness</i>	Carrie Pedley
I	Villa Marina, (inside foyer)	<i>Traa dy Liooar</i>	Owen Atkinson
J	Eurocycles, 8 Victoria Road	<i>Up and Running</i>	Aidan Alemon

