Artful Scribe



LITERATURE FESTIVAL
24TH OCTOBER - 6TH NOVEMBER

WELCOME TO PLAY ON WORDS

Play on Words is a literary festival for local residents and visitors to New Milton and the surrounding area.

First staged in autumn 2018, the festival was conceived by two friends, Sarah Conacher and Helen Clarke who had visited the Isle of Wight Literary Festival after self-publishing two children's stories. They brought together and developed a small group of enthusiastic volunteers, supported by the New Milton Town Partnership, New Milton Lions Club and Forest Arts with sponsorship from local businesses.

The steering group felt that it was important to provide an eclectic mix of events taking place in a variety of venues across the community with the aim of engaging as many different groups of people as possible.

Local residents and visitors were warmly invited to engage with literature in the broadest sense with an intriguing, challenging and high-quality diary of performances, workshops and creative events on offer. The programme aimed to have something for everyone, whilst also providing a platform for local authors to promote, share and develop their work.

We are delighted to return in 2023 in the same spirit as before, with support from ArtfulScribe and project partners as part of NEWRITE, a literature development programme for the New Forest funded by Arts Council England and delivering a range of writing-based activities over the next two years. While this year's festival is mainly focused on Forest Arts Centre, we aim to return with a broader offer in 2024.

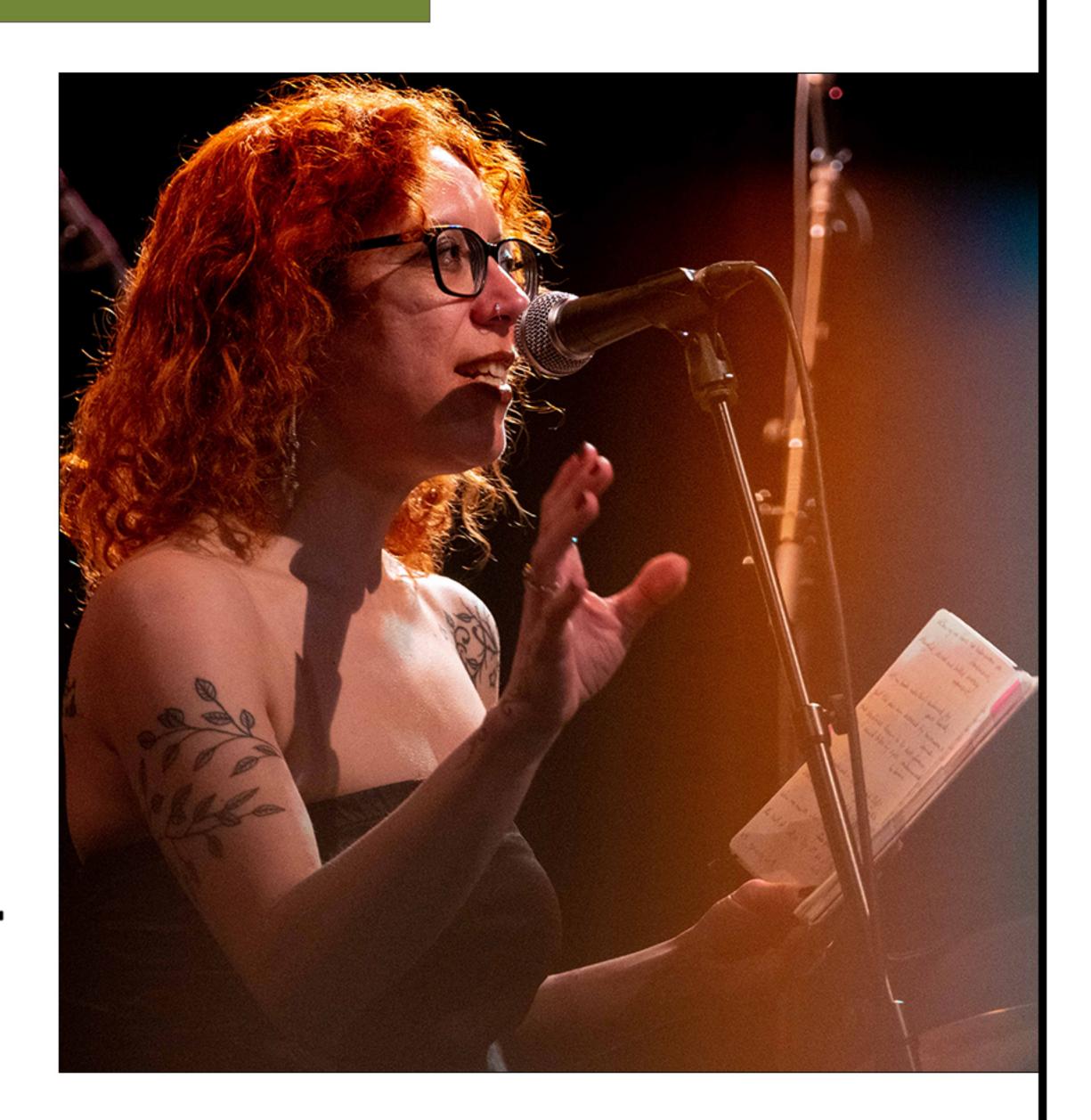
For further details, please visit www.playonwords.org.uk or contact matt@artfulscribe.co.uk if you'd like to get involved.

PLAY ON WORDS OPEN MIC

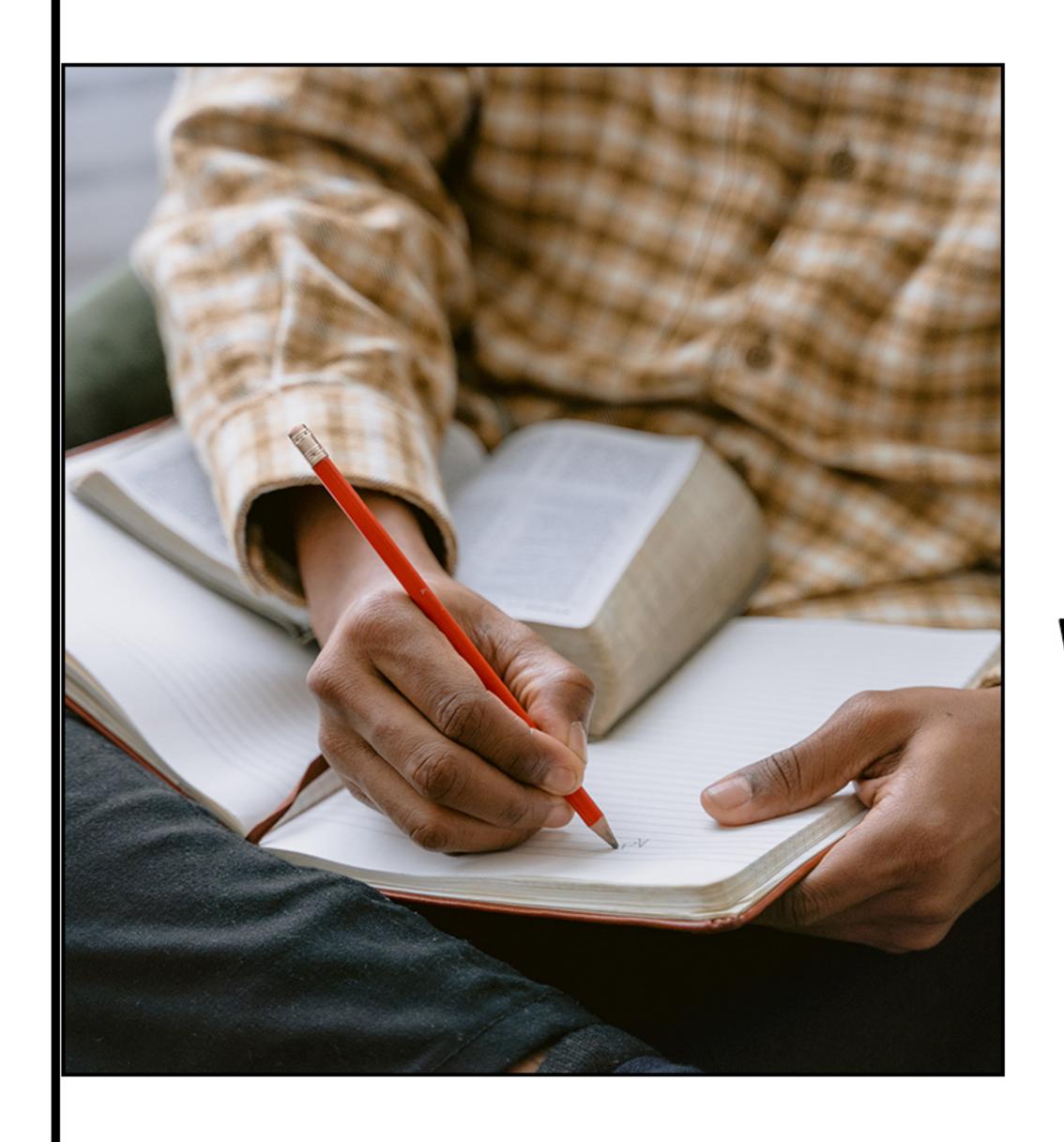
Tuesday 24th October 7.30pm - 9.30pm Forest Arts Centre, New Milton Free

A monthly platform for poetry, spoken word, and live literature to find new audiences in a warm and supportive environment.

An ideal space to trial new work or perfect delivery of existing material. Everyone welcome although content may contain adult themes.



WRITERS OF THE NEW FOREST



Wednesday 25th October
7pm
Forest Arts Centre, New Milton
£5

Join local historian, Nick Saunders, to find out more about writers who have lived in, or based their writing on, the New Forest, featuring genres including gothic horror, historical fiction, comedy and writing for children.

A Q&A will follow this event.

Running time 50mins + questions.

FUNDING ROUTES FOR WRITERS

Thursday 26th October 6pm - 8pm Forest Arts Centre, New Milton Free

With only 13.7% of authors earning a living solely from writing, it can help to access funding streams to support a creative practice or to get paid for creative projects based in the community. Join Kate Offord, Relationship Manager for Literature, Arts Council England and ArtfulScribe for an overview of potential funding routes, with time for Q&A and networking afterwards.



TONGUE FU

Friday 27th October 7.30pm - 9.30pm Forest Arts Centre, New Milton £10

Poets, writers and storytellers take centre stage, accompanied by the quick-witted, improvising musicians of the Tongue Fu band. This showcase features special guests, local writers, and 'it's impossible not to get caught up in the magic' according to a recent review.

HERITAGE WALK FOR WRITERS AND NON-WRITERS

Saturday 28th October 10 - 11:30am Meet at Forest Arts Centre, New Milton £5

Follow a guide around Milton Village and learn the stories behind buildings and sites of interest, like the poor house, the churchyard and the graves where notable Miltonians lie at rest. This walk starts and ends at Forest Arts Centre where there will be opportunity for questions, refreshment, and conversations.

Duration - 90 minutes, weather permitting.



WRITERS' DAY: WRITING FOR CHILDREN



Join children's authors, Ali Sparkes (My Sister is a Dog, Stairwell Books), Yarrow Townsend (Map of Leaves, Chicken House Books) and Carole Smith (Have You Seen the New Forest Unicorn?) for a day of workshops, panel discussions, readings and an open mic for participants to share their own work.

WRITING FOR WELLBEING

Thursday 2nd November
1.30pm - 3.30pm
The Hollies, 1 Barton Court Road
New Milton BH25 6NN
Free



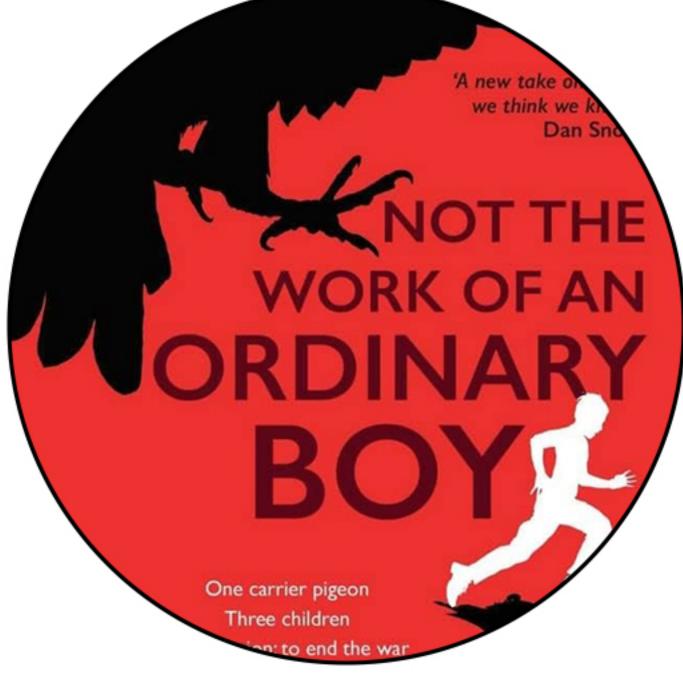
Creative writing can help with: mental clarity; raising self-esteem; assist in expressing emotions in a healthy way; boost creativity; strengthening the memory. This gentle workshop will explore some existing poems and use these as prompts for creating new writing. Participants need to register with Solent Mind and be over 18, living in the New Forest, and struggling with their mental health.

STAIRWELL BOOKS/AUTHOR TALKS

Friday 3rd November Forest Arts Centre, New Milton

A team of writers from Stairwell Books make for a lively evening of inspiring talks, discussions and networking, featuring poetry and fiction for all ages with authors including Simon Culleton, Rebecca Smith, Victoria L. Humphreys and others.







STAIRWELL BOOK FAIR

Saturday 4th November Forest Arts Centre, New Milton

Stairwell Books //

Representing genres including literary fiction, historical fiction, writing for middle grades and young adults, LGBTQ+ fantasy, and poetry, today's book fair has something for everyone, including author workshops and readings.

For anyone aspiring to write, we're offering FREE workshops throughout the day. See Forest Arts Centre for schedule.

HISTORICAL FACTS, INSPIRING PLACES



Saturday 4th November 11AM Forest Arts Centre, New Milton Free

Customs men shooting smugglers, smugglers murdering riding officers, and Indian army hospital camps form some of the tantalising tales to inspire young writers to use local history as a launch-pad for new creative writing. For young people aged 7-14.

NEW FOREST WRITERS GROUP

Monday 6th November 10.15am

Forest Arts Centre, New Milton

A regular group meeting on the first Monday of each month, and founded to encourage people to keep writing. All writing is welcomed; short stories, flash fiction, memoirs, novels, poetry and prose.

Event	Date	Time
Play On Words Open Mic	Tuesday 24 th October	7:30 - 9:30PM
Writers of the New Forest	Wednesday 25 th	7:00 - 8:00PM
	October	
Funding Routes for Writers	Thursday 26 th October	6:00 - 8:00PM
Tongue Fu	Friday 27 th October	7:30 - 9:30PM
Heritage Walks for Writers and Non-Writers	Saturday 28 th October	10:00 - 11:30AM
Writers' Day: Writing for Children	Sunday 29 th October	10:00AM - 4:00PM
Writing for Wellbeing	Thursday 2 nd November	1.30 - 3:30PM
Stairwell Books Author Talks	Friday 3 rd November	
Stairwell Book Fair	Saturday 4 th November	
Historical Facts, Inspiring Places	Saturday 4 th November	11:00AM
New Forest Writers Group	Monday 6 th November	10:15AM

Box Office: 01425 612393

www.forest-arts.co.uk

All events take place at Forest Arts Centre, New Milton except Writing for Wellbeing with Solent Mind. Please contact Solent Mind for details.



Explore Ballard Water Meadow with Story Quest, a brand-new interactive adventure for the whole family.

Perfect for primary school age children and their families, the Ballard Water Meadow Story Quest will be launching <u>during October half term.</u> Keep your eye on the Play on Words website for all the details!

The Ballard Water Meadow Story Quest is being developed by the National Literacy Trust and Culture in Common, with funding from Sport England.

Thank you to our partners:

artfulscribe.co.uk























