

NORTH WEST LITERARY ARTS

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SUPPORTERS TABLE

Thank you to Inés, Katherine, Kevin, Waterstones King Street, Lancaster University-Grad College, New Writing North, and The Print Room at The Storey for helping us continue creating engaging, live literature events, writer development opportunities, podcasts and publications!

THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

Last month we shared stories loosely exploring the theme “empty nest.” Stories explored loneliness, relationships, being left behind, leaving and much more. It was an emotional evening with stories that made us imagine and think. Each storyteller reminded us of the ways we touch one another and the ways we are touched by those we meet through life.

December and January we are celebrating the holidays with a virtual Stories at the Storey. The theme is “journey” loosely interpreted. We’ve invited people to share their stories through words, pictures, doodles, and music. If you would like to share yours please let us know.

Last week, I interviewed Naomi on writing her story for the theme of school memories. The link will be live over the holidays. The interview includes her reading the piece and a discussion of her writing process, the ability to remember, and the task of getting it right.

If you’d like to share your 3-5 minute true story in person, via email, on our website, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram let us know.

At Stories at the Storey there’s always room for one more.

WHAT’S NEW?

At North West Literary Arts, we love stories in all their many forms. There’s something special about the ways words can move us to act, think, dream, imagine, change, and connect. Lately, we’ve been collaborating with some organizations that engage audiences and support writers in a variety of ways.

On December 21, we worked with [Arachne Press](#) and ten other organizations, individuals, communities, and venues to deliver [Dusk](#), a festival that spread live literature across the UK. Each event began as Dusk fell over the location. It was an evening of poetry, prose, music, and song. Mostly it was an evening of wonder. It was a delight to be a part of a project that spanned across the UK. The event featured professional actors dramatically reading poetry and prose. The readings also featured a BSL interpreter from Co-Sign. It was lovely to watch stories brought to life by both actors and a BSL interpreter. Naomi and I would like to have a BSL interpreter at upcoming Stories at the Storey events.

In November we also co-hosted the Lancaster stop of [New Writing North’s Northern Writers’ Awards](#) Road Show. The sold-out event included authors Kerry Hudson (2017 judge) and Carys Davies, poet Andrew Forster, and I in conversation with New Writing North’s Will Mackie. We talked about our experiences writing, publishing, and crafting a writing life. We also talked about how winning the Northern Writers’ Awards has impacted our writing and opportunities. The evening was a great reminder of the many paths to publishing and the support for writers across the North.

In more good news, we have registered as a community interest company (CIC)! What does this mean? It means our commitment to creating platforms and opportunities for diverse writers has been recognized. We are applying for funding to help us to help emerging writers engage diverse audiences. How can you help? Let us know.

Tips and Prompts

It's nearly 2018 and whether you write full time, part time, for a hobby, or professionally, it's a good idea to organize your writing life. How?

1. Set a schedule: if you can find time to write, that's great. If you can't dedicate time to write, don't worry about it. Write when you can. So why set a schedule? Schedules act as reminders to do the things that are important.
2. Create Boundaries: Protect your writing time. This one starts with you: prioritizing your writing time is a crucial step in helping others respect your time to write.
3. Find/Create Work Space: Take some time to learn how you create and where you create best. While that may change from piece to piece, the more you know about how you create, the more you can create.
4. Track your writing: create a spreadsheet that reminds you of submissions, deadlines, opportunities, and results.
5. Join or create a writing group: a supportive writing network shares feedback, tips and opportunities.

Looking for a writing job in 2018? Check out Arts Council England's [news and jobs website](#). It's one of my favorite resources to find out what's going on in the arts and to find out about opportunities. Other favorites are [Arts Admin](#), and [Curator Space](#).

Building Community, One Story at a Time

GET IN TOUCH

Have news to share? Let us know and we will share it either via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or email.

Twitter: @NWLitSalon

Facebook: North West Literary Salon

Email: northwestliteraryarts@gmail.com

Instagram: North West Literary Arts

Thanks for reading,
Yvonne and Naomi, North West Literary Arts