

NORTH WEST LITERARY ARTS

Volume 1 / Issue 9

SUPPORTERS TABLE

Thank you to Sharon, Katherine, Kevin, Lancaster University-Grad College, Lancaster University Department of English Literature and Creative Writing, New Writing North, and Printroom Café & Bar for helping us continue creating engaging, live literature events, writer development opportunities, podcasts and publications!

THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

Instead of our monthly true-story open mic night, last month we hosted Funding Your Creativity, a discussion and networking event aimed at creatives seeking funding information and networking opportunities. The four-hour event included a talk from The Arts Council's Literature Representative, Alison Boyle. The talk was informative and interactive and was followed by networking opportunities and one-to-one appointments with Alison. The appointments offered creatives the opportunity to get advice on projects and applications. We met quite a few creatives. While many were based in Lancaster, some were from Morecambe, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Chester, and beyond.

What did we learn?

The Arts Council is a great source of support for funding both creative projects and creative practice. It's worth looking at the resources their site offers including information about new funding streams, funding priorities, and case studies of projects they have funded. This event was billed as a panel discussion. We aimed to include representatives from The Jerwood Foundation, Lancaster University, Lancaster City Council, and Lancashire County Council. The aim was to show creatives that there are sources of support and to create space where people could explore potential collaborations.

The Jerwood Foundation's funds are committed for the year, a representative from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences was not available, Lancaster City Council did not respond in time, and Lancashire County Council could not make the date.

What does this mean for creatives in Lancaster and the surrounding areas? It means we need to support one another. We also learned that it's important to consider other forms of support. Other than financial support, there may be ways individuals and organizations can help one another succeed. Sharing information is a start. To do our part we have created [Create](#), a Facebook group aimed at sharing information, resources, opportunities, and best practices. It's also a space for people to build relationships and ideally explore collaborations. We want to support one another to create. Please feel free to join, introduce yourself, ask a question, share advice, get involved, and invite others to the group.

WHAT'S NEW?

Thanks to Unite+, an initiative funded by the EU and delivered by Lancaster University and University of Central Lancashire, North West Literary Arts is proud to welcome a new member of the team. Humairaa will be our Research Funding Assistant. While this is a temporary position, she will be helping us prepare for long-

term success. Humairaa will be researching funding opportunities and schemes and creating a database so that Naomi and I can strategize our funding search and maximize time.

London Book Launch Highlights: Last month we hosted our first event in London. The event was sponsored by the Department of English Literature and Creative Writing at Lancaster University. Our first London salon featured Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi and Naomi Kruger reading from published and forthcoming titles. It was an intimate crowd allowing guests to ask engaging questions. The writers were generous with their information. The atmosphere was warm.

What did we learn about hosting an event in a new city? While we asked partners to promote the event and promoted in online spaces we knew, there were probably relevant spaces both online and off, that we completely missed. It's important for us to forge relationships in communities where we want to host events. Next time, while we will continue to ask partner organizations to help with marketing, we are going to the city to hand out and post fliers, talk to people in bookstores, libraries, cafes, and art spaces, and at parks, bakeries, and stores. We are going to meet the people where they are. How else can they decide to spend time with us?

Stories at the Storey Returns

This month's Stories at the Storey theme is "disruptions" loosely interpreted. We're looking for stories of plans gone astray, journeys derailed, courses changed and other disruptions that for good or for bad can alter the course from Point A to Point B. If you'd like to sign up for a true story open mic slot or share your story on our website, email us at storiesatthestorey@gmail.com. If you'd like to share it via Twitter or Instagram, DM us there.

Tips and Prompts

We've shared what we learned throughout the newsletter, now it's your turn. We're looking for tips and advice on applying for funding, collaborating with individuals and organizations, planning new events, and anything you want to share. Get in touch to share your advice.

Building Community, One Story at a Time

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

Twitter: @NWLitSalon @StoriesatStorey
Facebook: North West Literary Salon, Stories at Storey
Facebook Groups: Onliterary, Create
Email: northwestliteraryarts@gmail.com
Instagram: North West Literary Arts

Want our help with a project? Get in touch.

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

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