Being Human
a festival of the humanities

OVER 250 FREE EVENTS

12 – 22 NOVEMBER 2015
Welcome to the programme for the 2015 Being Human festival of the humanities!

Being Human ’15 is our second festival and builds on last year’s inaugural festival with an even broader and more diverse programme of events. With well over 250 free events right across the UK, we are proud to present this programme celebrating the humanities over 11 days of big ideas, big debates and festival fun.

From talks, walks and debates to innovative events bringing whole cities to life, there’s an incredible amount on offer this year. Check out activities in our five festival hubs (not to mention our coordinating hub in London) to get insights on everything from Heritage, health and wellbeing in Swansea to how the humanities can make Creative cities and citizens in Northumbria.

There are more than 250 events in this programme and this number is growing. Check out our online programme at beinghumanfestival.org.uk for the latest event details, news on speakers, and for special pop-up events that will be unveiled right up to the festival itself. We’ve got some surprises in store so stay tuned!

The Being Human festival is led by the School of Advanced Study, University of London, in partnership with the Arts & Humanities Research Council, the British Academy and the Wellcome Trust. We hope you enjoy the programme.

Being Human festival team

Professor Barry Smith - festival director
Dr Michael Eades - festival curator
Jo Chard - festival assistant
Lauren Adams - head of marketing and communications
Partners
The School of Advanced Study, University of London, is the UK’s national centre for the promotion and support of research in the humanities. The School is proud to serve as the national coordinating hub for the Being Human festival.

The Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) invests around £98m every year in research and postgraduate training. The research supported by this investment of public funds provides considerable economic, social and cultural benefits to the UK. The AHRC is proud to support the Being Human festival of the humanities and its work to engage the public in world-leading arts and humanities research.

The British Academy was established by Royal Charter in 1902. Its purpose is to inspire, recognise and support excellence and high achievement in the humanities and social sciences, throughout the UK and internationally, and to champion their role and value. The British Academy is delighted to support the festival for a second year to highlight exciting work happening in the humanities in the UK.

The Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation dedicated to improving health. It provides more than £700 million annually to support bright minds in science, the humanities and social sciences, education, public engagement and the application of research to medicine. Following an event with Hubbub, an interdisciplinary research collective resident at the Hub at Wellcome Collection, the Wellcome Trust has allocated a significant grant to support Being Human 2015.

How to use this guide
Events are listed by region, in date and time order. Each listing states the event title, the organising institution, the date and time, and the venue address. If the event is part of a series, this is also noted. Some events are recurring or ongoing throughout the festival period. In each case, events are marked with a yellow star at the bottom of the event description with relevant recurring or ongoing, or series-related dates. The information in this guide is subject to change, so please check our website for the most up to date information at beinghumanfestival.org or email beinghuman@sas.ac.uk.

Booking
The majority of our events are free and open to the public, although a fee may be applicable for a small number of events. Some events have limited capacity and advance booking is advisable. The information in this guide is subject to change, so please check the festival website for updated times, dates, venue details and booking information at beinghumanfestival.org.

Accessibility information
All accessibility information is listed online at beinghumanfestival.org. If you have any queries about the accessibility of our events, please get in touch with the event organiser, who is listed online in each event page.

Event podcasts
Selected events are recorded and available to view, listen to, or download from iTunes and YouTube. Please check out the website at beinghumanfestival.org for further details.
The School of Advanced Study is the national coordinating hub for the Being Human festival. Between 12 and 22 November, the School will be promoting and facilitating events right across the UK, while also unveiling a special series of events in the theme ‘hidden and revealed’. From the mysteries of the occult, to the human side of lawyers, to the thrill of urban exploration, this programme promises to underline the revelatory side of humanities research.

Senate House revealed
Join a team of urban explorers as they delve into the hidden spaces of Senate House, bringing the secrets of this historic building to light. Dr Bradley Garrett will lead a team of intrepid adventurers through tunnels and heating chambers before hosting a one-off event in the abandoned boiler rooms. Follow their progress and bring out your inner ‘urban explorer’!

The humanity of lawyers
Lawyers are sometimes characterised as money-grabbing and ruthless. This event will reveal another side of life at the Bar, including the ethical dilemmas lawyers face and their views on court etiquette and dress. This event promises an insight into the human side of lawyers, and an opportunity to engage directly with barristers and the scholars who study them.

Sounds that move us
Music is essential - and perhaps unique - to human beings. Featuring work by musicians and researchers, demonstrations of sonic illusions, digital mapping, and even ‘sonic shoes’, this evening of talks, experiments and interactive demonstrations will invite you to explore the ways in which music and sounds speak to more than just our ear.
The University of Aberdeen’s hub programme ranges from radio broadcasts to church tours, with plenty in between. Events in museums, galleries and cinemas will explore the overlapping histories and cultures of the city – from Vikings and medieval Aberdonians to Romanian artists and Polish migrants. A headline talk from Terry Waite (CBE) will explore what it means to ‘be human’ under extreme conditions, while right across the city a vibrant programme promises to bring the humanities to life.

Survival in solitude
Terry Waite was held in solitary confinement for over four years. In this special talk for the Being Human festival, he will discuss how he retained his humanity under extreme conditions, and draw some conclusions for living in the ‘normal’ world.

Bright ideas: the art and science of light
From illuminating our world to exploring the universe around us, humans have interacted with light in diverse ways. This exhibition showcases light-related objects from the University of Aberdeen Museum’s scientific instrument, human culture and science collections, many on display for the first time.

Northumbria University
Cities and citizens
Activities coordinated by the University of Northumbria hub will explore the histories, traditions, cities and people of the North East. From a pop-up museum on home and migration, to an event on those once accused of witchcraft in Tyne and Wear, activities will shed new light on our understanding of the region. With events every day of the festival in venues including Newcastle’s Discovery Museum, the Lit & Phil, and the city centre of Newcastle itself, the programme will have something for all the cities and citizens of the north east, and beyond.

Tyneside radicalism in story and song
This evening of short talks on episodes from Newcastle’s radical history will be accompanied by performances from local musicians Benny Graham and Tony Corcoran. The evening will give a flavour of revolt and rabblerousing in the north east.

Stories of migration and home in Newcastle
This event in Newcastle’s Discovery Museum will feature talks, storytelling, and a pop-up museum of migration stories. People will be encouraged to tell their own stories of migration via objects donated to the museum, which will be captured digitally with their background story to feature in an online exhibit.

To book online and for up-to-date time, venue and access information, and even more events, visit beinghumanfestival.org | @BeingHuman15
Hubs
Nottingham

Nottingham
Creative city

The city of Nottingham was made famous by its industrialists and innovators, from the Boots retail and pharmacy stores to the Raleigh Bicycle factory.

This industrial past has been coupled with a strong tradition of cultivating creativity and craftsmanship from the founding of the first University College and the Castle Museum and Art Gallery, to the contemporary formation of a Creative Quarter clustering creative people at the heart of a city realigned to the knowledge economy.

Juxtaposed to this formal cultivation of creativity is a more intangible environment that has inspired and attracted a wide range of creative people including writers, poets, performers, film-makers, game designers and artists.

Working with a range of city based partners, the University of Nottingham will explore the city as a creative space and source of inspiration. In venues including Nottingham Castle Museum, Nottingham Contemporary, the D.H. Lawrence Heritage Centre and the city’s Creative Quarter, the programme will explore both Nottingham’s heritage of creativity as well as its contemporary creative culture. Expect everything from pop-up language classes, poetry treasure hunts and walks in the footsteps of D.H. Lawrence.

Telling tales of Nottingham

David Sillitoe, a staff photographer at the Guardian newspaper since the late 1980s, will guide a cohort of students in telling the story of their weekend in Nottingham as seen through the camera lens. Students will compete to make the most intriguing documentary photographs, using the film adaptation of Alan Sillitoe’s novel Saturday Night and Sunday Morning, as inspiration.

But I know this city!

In 1969, B.S. Johnson’s The Unfortunates was published as a ‘book in a box’, set in Nottingham. Over the weekend of 21 and 22 November, audiences will be invited to navigate 27 different locations - bars, bookshops, bus stops - exploring the finest nooks and crannies that Nottingham has to offer. This event is a highly ambitious and unique community performance of this important novel by theatre company Excavate.
Sheffield

Seeing human

From drinking cultures to folk music, stained glass to animation, events coordinated by the University of Sheffield hub take a creative look at how we represent being human with all its complexities and dilemmas in South Yorkshire. Events include a stained-glass treasure hunt in Sheffield Cathedral, explorations of 16th century drinking songs (in a pub!), and a philosophical search for the meaning of a life well lived.

Intoxicants in the Sheffield Tap

Charge your glasses for a night in the pub with Dr Angela McShane (V&A) and Lucie Skeaping, musician and presenter of Radio 3’s Early Music Show, to explore drinking in history and song from the 16th to the 19th century.

A life well lived?

What do we mean when we talk about a ‘good life’? Is this an ethical question, a collective one which looks at our role within society, or is it an individual dilemma? In this discussion, philosopher Angie Hobbs will speak for the human while Robert McKay provides perspective based on his work on human-animal relations.

Seeing human in song

Award-winning folk singer and ethnomusicologist Fay Hield’s new album Old Adam is an exploration of how we use music and the stories within it to understand what it means to be human. For this event Fay will bring together other academics and creative cartoonists, storytellers and poets in what promises to be a lively discussion, peppered with song, poetry and stories.

Swansea

Heritage, health and wellbeing

From the majestic sweep of Swansea Bay to the historic Hafod-Morfa Copperworks, the ‘spirit of place’ of the South Wales coast informs the Swansea University hub programme. Exploring connections between belonging, heritage and wellbeing, events across the region will explore the humanities, and ‘being human’, through an explosion of drama, debate, poetry and creative art.

Disability and wellbeing in Wales: past, present & future

This public debate, in partnership with Disability Wales, focuses on the happiness and wellbeing of disabled people in Wales and how it has changed over time. How do historical experiences compare to those of people today? What more can be done to improve people’s prospects, happiness and social inclusion?

‘Windsongs of the Blessed Bay’

Windsongs of the Blessed Bay is a mythic play with music and puppetry which explores family, community and heritage from the perspective of a young blind woman. In this event, members of the cast of Windsongs will give a 30-minute presentation on poetic narrative and music, followed by an interactive workshop on ‘creating drama from heritage’.
Scotland listings
book online: beinghumanfestival.org

The scientific imagination
University of Dundee Museum Services
Monday 12 October – Friday 27 November, 09:30–18:00
Tower Foyer Gallery, Tower Building, University of Dundee

For this exhibition, the university has let author Reif Larsen loose on its science museum collections, to create an entirely fictional interpretation of the weird and wonderful objects he has chosen. Also tying in to Dundee Literary Festival, the exhibition will show how the humanities can make us think about science in a new way.

no booking required

Bright Ideas: the art and science of light
University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Sunday 1 November – Sunday 29 November, 11:30–16:30 (closed Mondays)
King’s Museum, Aberdeen

From illuminating our world to exploring the universe around us, humans have interacted with light in diverse ways. In this age of scientific advancement do we take light for granted? Re-evaluate your perception of light and its complexities at this new temporary exhibition. Curated by this year’s Museum Studies students at the University of Aberdeen’s King’s Museum, this exhibition showcases objects from the University of Aberdeen Museum’s scientific instrument, human culture and science collections, many on display for the first time. The exhibition will be on throughout the festival.

no booking required

George Jamesone – portrait painter
University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Monday 12 October – Friday 27 November, 09:30–18:00
Tower Foyer Gallery, Tower Building, University of Dundee

Running for the duration of the festival, this exhibition will examine the life, times career and legacy of George Jamesone, Scotland’s first indigenous portrait painter and famous son of Aberdeen. Virtually the only 17th-century Scottish painter about whom anything is known, he made a name for himself painting local academics and scholars before becoming a court painter and rising to national fame. His legacy for Aberdeen is that his paintings are the earliest painted representation of Aberdonians that survive to this day, and he was the first to paint the portrait of a serving Lord Provost of Aberdeen, a tradition which continues today. The exhibition will be on throughout the festival.

no booking required

Ongoing exhibition:
🌟 Monday 12 October – Friday 27 November, 09:30–18:00

Ongoing exhibition:
🌟 Sunday 1 November – Monday 30 November, 10:00–17:00

Ongoing exhibition:
🌟 Sunday 1 November – Sunday 29 November, 11:30–16:30
‘Seven Songs (For a Long Life): challenging western taboos

University of Glasgow
Thursday 12 November, TBC
The Robert Burns Centre, Dumfries

The event challenges current western taboos about death and dying through Seven Songs (For a Long Life), a documentary filmed at the Strathcarron Hospice in Scotland, featuring terminally ill patients. After the screening, Professor David Clark and other members of the University of Glasgow led project ‘Global interventions at the end of life’, will host a discussion with the documentary’s director Dr Amy Hardie. The panel will explore the medical humanities and the personal issues faced by researchers and film-makers working in this field, which by nature involves collaborating with people in difficult and often tragic circumstances.

no booking required

Going tornado: Paul Neagu’s 1974 Aberdeen performance

University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Thursday 12 November, 19:00–20:30
Belmont Cinema, Aberdeen

In 1974, the Romanian artist Paul Neagu (1938–2004) did a live performance in Aberdeen, at the Grampian TV Studios. It was broadcast to viewers across the region as part of the Images TV series, a programme dedicated to the visual arts. This pioneering performance can be understood as an artistic interpretation of what it means to be human. This event will feature a screening of the original performance followed by a talk about the significance of the work by Amy Bryzgel, lecturer at the University of Aberdeen and specialist in eastern European performance art, along with discussion. All welcome.

no booking required

All in a fankle: a workshopping of exuberant failure

University of Glasgow
Friday 13 – Saturday 14 November, 09:30–17:00
Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow

There is little in life more human than failure: we fall down, we get up again. Yet there is very little discussion around how failure works within our creative practice as makers and thinkers. These two days of intensive workshopping on creative failure, include the seeking out of uncomfortable and risky situations in our creative practices, and also true catastrophic unsalvageable instances of collapse. Run by Elizabeth Reeder, Rachel McCrum, Ewan Downie and Clare Duffy, they will culminate in a performance of what is produced. Successful applicants – to a call for writers, artists and performers from a range of disciplines who are ‘stuck’ or in the midst of failure – will have the opportunity to perform their work at Glasgow’s Centre for Contemporary Arts.

booking required
Scotland listings
book online: beinghumanfestival.org

Ghost writing with Mary Shelley and friends
University of Dundee
Series: University of Dundee, Mary Shelley’s Dundee: reanimating a city
Friday 13 November, 19:00–21:00
Braes bar, Dundee
In June 1816, Mary Shelley, her future husband Percy, Lord Byron and John Polidori sheltered in the Villa Diodati on Lake Geneva, away from the unseasonably bad weather. Here they passed the time by creating ghost stories, two of which were developed into landmark works of the Gothic genre: Frankenstein and The Vampyre, the first modern vampire story. Join us in the basement of Braes on Perth Road as we bring Mary Shelley and her friends back to life for one night only. We will begin with snippet readings from their works and then proceed to spool our dark imaginations together. Fancy dress encouraged, but not compulsory; fun and laughter mandatory. In association with Literary Dundee.
booking required

Wait, weep and be worthy? Women and the First World War
University of Glasgow
Saturday 14 November, 10:00–18:30
Glasgow Women’s Library
Reporting from France in 1914, journalist Cora Harris concluded: ‘What men suffer through war is written in histories...but what women suffer is never written.’ While the first year of the centenary of the First World War focused on the contribution of young men, the second year offers a chance to highlight the experiences of women. This free public symposium explores the role, contribution and output of women during the Great War and its immediate aftermath through a combination of talks, a pageant, a suffragette exhibition, creative writing and art workshops. Speakers include Kate Adie who, as Britain’s leading female war reporter, blazed a trail for women in journalism, and Sarah Waters, the award-winning author of novels including Tipping the Velvet, Affinity, The Night Watch and The Paying Guests.
booking required

Landscapes of change, the Rousay Clearances: oral histories
University of the Highlands and Islands
Saturday 14 November, 12:00–16:00
Rousay Community School, Orkney
Orkney was largely untouched by the Highland Clearances, but Rousay saw the clearance of two townships by General Frederick William Traill-Burroughs in the mid-19th century. This workshop will promote debate around the archaeologies and histories of the clearances, engaging the community with these events, narratives, landscape and the academic research which brings all the strands together. The Rousay Clearances are still very much part of the island today. Developing from archaeological fieldwork carried out by Dr Keir Strickland and Dan Lee (UHI Archaeology Institute), and joined by Tom Muir (Orkney Museum) and Dr Elizabeth Ritchie (UHI Centre for History), this free interactive workshop will explore how oral histories have preserved and curated the narratives of the clearances.
no booking required
War frocks, unlocked: interpreting clothing born of conflict

Museum of Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh Council
Saturday 14 November, 10:00–12:00 & 14:00–16:00

Visit the Museum of Edinburgh, a treasure box of history and decorative art, and get up close and personal with captivating fashion from the First and Second World Wars. Garments can tell stories from women’s lives often missing from conventional histories of war. War frocks, unlocked takes key wartime pieces from the museum’s stored collections and presents them for the first time in innovative ways. A series of two hour workshops will enable participants to engage with our wartime costume and provide feedback. Tea and cake provided. Workshops will be held from 10:00–12:00 and 14:00–16:00 on Saturday 14 November and Saturday 21 November.

booking required

Talking humanities

University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Saturday 14 November, 10:00–13:00
Radio Station SHMU FM, 99.8FM (in Aberdeen) or www.shmu.org.uk

Join the SHMU FM Youth Radio Project for a jam-packed special Talking humanities radio show. The show will discuss the relevance of arts and humanities for young people today and feature interviews, discussion and comment from the Youth Radio team and Being Human festival participants. Tune in on 99.8 FM in Aberdeen or at www.shmu.org.uk online.

no booking required

Dead Dundee: a walking tour

University of Dundee
University of Dundee, Mary Shelley’s Dundee: reanimating a city
Sunday 15 November, 18.00–19.30
Discovery Point, Dundee

A tongue-in-cheek ‘Dead Dundee’ guided tour hosted by Mary Shelley and friends. The Frankenstein author believed a good Gothic novel should ‘curdle the blood, and quicken the beatings of the heart’. The tour will revisit places the young Shelley would have known in the 1810s as well as sites that continue to inspire gothic writers and artists. Taking in RSS Discovery, Dundee Science Centre, the Gothic Revival Cathedral, the eerie River Tay and other Dundonian landmarks, this walking tour ends at the atmospheric Howff Cemetery. Join us among the rubble of old Dundee as we reanimate the dead in a bravura feat of storytelling. Expect surprise cameos.

booking required
Participatory documentary filmmaking for LGBTI activism

Glasgow Human Rights Network
Sunday 15 November, TBC
Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow

This event focuses on the experiences of the Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights transnational project in its work with grassroots activists in participatory video film-making, to document the experiences and human rights struggles of LGBTI people. It will begin with Professor Nancy Nicol talking about participatory video film-making with communities, followed by the premiere of And Still We Rise, the envisioning documentary on the struggle led by Sexual Minorities Uganda. The event will conclude with a panel discussion with Professor Nancy Nicol, Richard Lusimbo of Sexual Minorities Uganda, a leading activist involved in the participatory filmmaking process, and Dr Matthew Waites.

booking required

Related event:
see Friday 13 November in London

LGBTI human rights activism film: ‘No Easy Walk to Freedom’

Glasgow Human Rights Network
Sunday 15 November, TBC
Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow

This event begins with a screening of the documentary No Easy Walk to Freedom, which tells the story of the struggle to strike down section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalises same-sex sexual behaviour in India. Following the screening, there will be a panel of experts including the film’s director Professor Nancy Nicol, Arvind Narrain, leading activist and lawyer for Voices Against 377, and Dr. Matthew Waites, co-editor of Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender identity in the Commonwealth: Struggles for Decriminalisation and Change.

booking required

Related event:
see Saturday 14 November in London

Performance workshop: the place of language in our lives

University of Glasgow
Monday 16 November, 10:00–16:00
School of Education, St Andrews Building, Glasgow

In this all-day participatory theatre event, participants will ‘test’ and workshop new material written by award-winning poet Tawona Sithole to produce a short performance at the end of the day. This material is part of an emerging play around the role that language and the creative arts play in our lives. Tawona is developing the play for the RM Borders research project at the University of Glasgow. The event is informal and open to everybody. No previous acting experience required. The day is split in three parts (morning workshop, afternoon rehearsal and performance) and participants are required to attend the full day. Lunch will be provided.

booking required
Should women play football with men?

University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Monday 16 November, 18:00–21:00
The Blue Lamp pub, Aberdeen

Café Philosophique offers an informal way to engage with the latest topics in philosophy. It is normal to ring fence sport competitions by gender: there is a football World Cup for men’s teams, and one for women’s teams; a Wimbledon tennis championship for ladies and one for ladies, and so on. This is true across most sports. But is this segregation of sports by gender fair? Is a ban on women competing in men’s competitions a form of gender discrimination? What about a ban on men competing in women’s competitions? Would sports be better off if they were completely gender blind? Come along and join the debate.

no booking required

Survival in solitude

University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Monday 16 November 19:00–21:00
King’s College Conference Centre, Aberdeen

Terry Waite, English humanitarian and author, spent almost five years in total solitary confinement after being captured by Hezbollah while he was in Lebanon trying to secure the release of British hostage John McCarthy and other western captives. For much of the time not only was he without companionship, but also was denied books and any contact with the outside world. Chaired by Professor Anne Glover (University of Aberdeen), Terry will discuss how he retained his humanity under such extreme conditions and will also draw some conclusions for living in the so called ‘normal’ world.

booking required

Being Viking: material culture and the latest discoveries

University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Tuesday 17 November, 17:30–18:30
Belmont Filmhouse, Aberdeen

Join us to hear from Craig Stanford the very latest discoveries that are beginning to overturn the long held assumption that the Vikings had no impact on the north east. Learn about what it meant to be Viking through a discussion of material culture.

no booking required
PechaKucha evening
University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Tuesday 17 November, 19:00–20:30
Belmont Filmhouse, Aberdeen

PechaKucha means chit-chat in Japanese. The concept was created by two architects fed up with lengthy presentations and it brings subjects to life through 20 images each shown for just 20 seconds. At this event you will hear from a number of speakers who will each talk for 6 minutes and 40 seconds about topics relating to the arts and humanities. The evening will feature art, design and contemporary research to provoke fresh ideas. Come along to discover something new.

no booking required

People & Place: the University of Dundee Culture Day
University of Dundee Culture & Arts Forum
Wednesday 18 November, 13:30–17:30
Baxter Room 1.36, Tower Building, University of Dundee

The university’s Culture Day is an entertaining and thought-provoking annual event bringing together staff from across the campus to give short presentations on a chosen topic, including talks, drama and music. This year the theme is People & Place - what is it about particular places that make us who we are? Why do we have such strong connections to them, and how has this been explored in the arts and humanities? Come along to find out!

no booking required

Home or abroad?
University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Wednesday 18 November, 19:00–21:00
Stratosphere Science Centre, Aberdeen

Large numbers of eastern European migrants have changed the dynamics of local communities across the UK. Scotland has experienced a particularly strong influx in recent years, mainly of Polish nationals, many of whom came as entire families, who lead the statistical tables in numbers. This roundtable discussion will look at how people, who may or may not have thought they were coming on a temporary basis, have ended up staying. Chaired by Professor Karin Friedrich and hosted by Dr Daniela Sime and Professor Rebecca Kay, the discussion aims to enhance the ability of communities to raise awareness and adapt policies to the local context.

booking required
Lost+Found: seeing Edinburgh through the eyes of its people

University of Edinburgh
Thursday 19 November, 18:00–21:00
National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh

Edinburgh, like every city, is a divided one. The digital exhibition ‘Lost + Found in Edinburgh’, hosted by The New Metropolitan web magazine, features the city’s vacant spaces, ruins and urban quirks. Including a virtual map of hidden places through the eyes of its people, it will interpret, contextualise and politicise Edinburgh today. The public is invited to participate in a lively discussion with humanities researchers, architects, creative practitioners and the city’s residents to dissect what it means to inhabit Edinburgh today. By grounding our imagination and lived experience in humanities research, they will explore the often ignored divisions across Edinburgh, thereby responding to the contradictions and inequalities of contemporary urban citizenship. Discussion begins at 6.30pm with a drinks reception at 8pm.

booking required

Health legends, epidemics and the politics of risk

University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Thursday 19 November, 18:30–21:00, followed by a reception
Kings College Conference Centre, Aberdeen

Distinguished folklorist, Professor Diane Goldstein from Indiana University, will deliver the David Buchan Lecture in celebration of the Elphinstone Institute's 20 years of dedicated research and promotion of the culture of the north-east of Scotland. She will discuss medical epidemic legends and their importance to our cultural understanding of disease and illness. Though fascinating, intriguing, and often frightening, health legends also warn and inform, offering insights into the relationship between cultural and health truths. Told within scientific and official sectors as well as lay communities, legends play a significant role in medical, legal, educational and social responses to disease. The talk will demonstrate the importance of these stories.

booking required

Being human? An arts and humanities variety night

University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Thursday 19 November, 19:00–21:00
Cellar 35, Aberdeen (over 18s venue)

Can robots have legal personhood? Can you learn about the arts and humanities in under 15 minutes? Could you dethrone Aberdeen's reigning Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots champion? Join Helen Keen – an award-winning comedy writer and performer whose first Edinburgh Fringe solo show, It Is Rocket Science! was later developed into a BBC Radio 4 series – along with some of the brightest and most creative researchers from across Scotland to explore these questions, and to consider what it means to be human in the 21st century.

booking required
Halloween and Bonfire Night: what do you do?

University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Friday 20 November, 19:00–21:00
MacRobert Lecture Theatre, University of Aberdeen

Show the world how your community celebrates Halloween and Bonfire Night in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Do you carve a pumpkin or neepie lantern? Dook for apples? Go guising, or trick-or-treating? Do you build a bonfire, or go to someone else’s? Do you have fireworks? Come tell your story in this hands-on workshop on recording family and community traditions. Attendees will learn about interviewing and recording, and how to ask good questions. Video and audio contributions from the workshop will be featured along with some historical information about past times at the Belmont Filmhouse.

booking may be required

Mary Shelley’s Dundee hits the stage!

University of Dundee
Series: University of Dundee, Mary Shelley’s Dundee: reanimating a city
Friday 20 November, 19.00–20.00
The Little Theatre, Dundee

Watch our specially created comic *Frankenstein Begins* come to life! The play will have interactive elements, allowing the audience to meet Mary Shelley, the author of the famous Gothic novel, and her real-life friend Isabel, daughter of a local jute baron, as she fuels her imagination in the City of Discovery in the 1810s. This event is run in association with DeeCAP (Dundee Comics/ Arts/ Performance).

booking required

All in a fankle: open showcase

University of Glasgow
Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow
Friday 20 November, 19:00–21:00

There is little in life more human than failure: we fall down, we get up again. Yet, there is very little discussion around how failure works within our creative practice as makers and thinkers. Two days of intensive workshoping – run by Elizabeth Reeder, Rachel McCrum, Ewan Downie and Clare Duffy – on creative failure, include the seeking out of uncomfortable and risky situations in our creative practices and also true catastrophic unsalvageable instances of collapse, and will lead to this performance by the writers, artists and performers from a range of disciplines who are now, perhaps, no longer ‘all in a fankle’.

booking required

Related event:
Workshops on Friday 13 & Saturday 14 November
Scotland listings

Careful what we wish for? Clashing laws, energy and society

University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Friday 20 November, 19:00–20:30
Queen’s Cross Church, Aberdeen

Activists and policymakers often focus on a particular issue – climate change and human rights, for example – while others may be arguing a different cause, such as more support for corporate interests or control of technology. When these clash, legal frameworks can deliver unexpected outcomes. Building on the research of Dr Abbe Brown who will chair this panel, the event explores hypothetical and real world experiences with representatives from civil society, law and the energy sector, with active contributions from the floor and via social media. Can we all, whatever our perspective, develop solutions more creatively, more strategically, and ideally, more holistically?

no booking required

Guided tour, George Jamesone’s Aberdeen

University of Aberdeen
Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life
Friday 20 November, 14:30–16:00
St Nicholas Kirkyard, Aberdeen (meet at the Upperkirkgate entrance)

This guided tour led by Fiona Mair, learning manager at Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums, will take visitors on a journey through a variety of places associated with 17th-century Scottish painter, George Jamesone. The tour will draw out the intriguing story of his life and career, while uncovering some of Aberdeen’s colourful history.

booking required | event costs £5 (£4 Accord cardholders) | pay on arrival

Frankenstein begins: an illustrated comic exhibition

University of Dundee
Series: Mary Shelley’s Dundee: reanimating a city
Saturday 21 November, 14:00–17:00
The McManus Art Gallery & Museum, Dundee

Join us at The McManus art gallery and museum in Dundee as we launch an exhibition of sketches and storyboards that form the basis of a specially commissioned comic in which we creatively revisit Mary Shelley’s formative experiences in Dundee just as she was on the cusp of bringing her greatest creation, Frankenstein, to life. The artists will discuss the process of adapting the source material into a script and finally an illustrated comic, stage by stage. Members of the public will even be able to join us in creating their own illustrations or short comic on the spot. The exhibition will remain on display beyond the festival. There will even be a special cosplay parade and plenty of family-friendly surprises!

booking required

Scotland listings

See our website for up-to-date time and venue details, access information and even more events: beinghumanfestival.org  |  @BeingHuman15
Tour of St. Nicholas church

**University of Aberdeen**

Series: University of Aberdeen, Bringing the humanities to life

Saturday 21 November, 13:00–15:00

**St Nicholas Church, Aberdeen**

Explore the historic Mither Kirk of Aberdeen. Led by various experts, attendees will discover the history of the building and learn about the lives of medieval Aberdonians from the scientific analysis of over 1,000 skeletons excavated from the East Church. This is a joint event with the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

booking required

More than 15,000 people attended Being Human 2014 and over 150 events took place nationally.
Expl[AR]ing humanities

Ulster University
Friday 20 November, TBC
Planning Landscape Architecture Community Environment, 7–9 Lower Garfield Street, Belfast

This full-day workshop will introduce participants to innovative and expressive ways to navigate and explore the spaces of Belfast’s Cathedral Quarter, using augmented reality mobile applications. A series of short introductory lectures by researchers, academics, architects and artists will highlight new ways to think about the city, history and its gentrification. After guiding participants through the design and development process, the workshops will end in the deployment of innovative mobile applications at a concluding showcase event in the evening. All welcome. No previous coding experience necessary.

booking required

‘Distinctive, exciting, diverse - as it says - a festival of the humanities - what a treat’
The young heritage apprentice

Swansea University

Series: Swansea University, Heritage, health and wellbeing

Thursday 12 November, 12:00–14:30

Swansea University campus and Hafod-Morfa Copperworks

‘The young heritage apprentice’, aimed at 14–18-years-olds, challenges school teams to develop a project associated with Cu @ Swansea, an ambitious heritage-led regeneration initiative focusing on the 12.5 acre site of the former Hafod-Morfa copperworks in the Lower Swansea Valley. It is led by Huw Bowen, professor of public history at Swansea University, in association with the City and County of Swansea. After visiting the site of the copperworks on 12 November, selected teams will present their ideas to a panel of judges on 19 November at the National Waterfront Museum. The day will culminate in an awards ceremony.

application process applies

Cathays Cemetery Heritage Walk: graveyard voices

University of South Wales

University of South Wales, 13 November, 13:00–14:30

Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff

Gathering in the restored Victorian Gothic mortuary chapels and at gravesides, participants in this free event will hear the remarkable history of Cathays Cemetery, the UK’s third largest. Actors and musicians will bring the history of this unique site to life through presentations of stories about those buried in the cemetery. These ‘Graveyard voices’ span the Victorian era well into the 20th century and range from the rich, heroic or esteemed to the profoundly tragic and emblematic. This event will feature a preview of the Cathays Cemetery podcasts due to be launched on 14 November. An open discussion about the cemetery and participants’ personal relationship to it will take place after the heritage walk.

booking required (places limited)

The Quantified Romantics

Aberystwyth University

Saturday 14 November, 11:00–15:00

Ceredigion Museum, Aberystwyth

Do gothic novels really stir the pulse, as their Romantic authors claimed? Can paintings of yawning chasms, nightmarish creatures, ruined abbeys in dark forests and rocky precipices actually cause measurable chills of terror? Romanticist Professor Richard Marggraf Turley and computer scientist Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar of Aberystwyth University invite you into the ‘Vortex’ – a darkened enclosure – to view projected images of gothic paintings and pages from Romantic novels while biometric data are collected with ‘smart’ wristbands. The event in Ceredigion Museum includes talks on gothic art and literature and on the technology at the heart of today’s smart watches and fitness trackers. It will explore some of the most intriguing aspects of what it means to be human in the modern world.

no booking required

Recurring event:

Friday 20 November, 13:00–14:30

Wales

listings
book online: beinghumanfestival.org
Graveyard voices: the Cathays Cemetery Heritage podcasts

University of South Wales
Saturday 14 November, 13:00–17:00
The Atrium, University of South Wales

Through a fruitful partnership with Cardiff City Council, the University of South Wales (USW) has produced a range of public performance work across the city. Working closely with the Council’s Cemeteries and Bereavement Services, USW has brought ‘history to life’ with performers creating short scenes relating to the fascinating stories of the people buried in the Cemetery. This free event will consolidate these popular heritage walks with a live audio performance that will re-create the sounds and stories of the cemetery and feature the launch of a series of anywhere, any time heritage walk podcasts. In addition to the performance, the event will feature presentations and an open discussion on the multiple histories and futures of the cemetery.

booking required (places limited)

Related event:
Friday 13 November, 13:00–14:30

Art @ the Hafod – the spirit of place

Swansea University
Series: Swansea University, Heritage, health and wellbeing
Monday 16 November, 11:00–16:00
Hafod Morfa Copperworks, Swansea

The historic Hafod-Morfa Copperworks was one of the primary centres of industry in South Wales and integral to community life in the Lower Swansea Valley. Participants of all ages will get a unique chance to respond to this site of rich heritage through observational drawings and painting. Over the course of the day each visitor will create some investigative drawings from points of interest. At various times, the group will explore the findings, discuss the drawings and what might make a final piece. With guidance from artist, Dan Llywelyn Hall, members of the group can expect to develop their observational skills and confidence with drawing and painting.

booking required

Disability and wellbeing: past, present and future

Swansea University
Series: Swansea University, Heritage, health and wellbeing
Tuesday 17 November, 18:00–19:30
Council Chamber, Swansea University

Research on the so-called ‘disability paradox’ has shown that life-limiting impairment is not necessarily a barrier to happiness and wellbeing, with many disabled people reporting a good quality of life. Swansea University researchers and academics at the universities of Aberystwyth, Glasgow Caledonian and Strathclyde, are uncovering historical attitudes towards disability through the experiences of those disabled in the coal industry of the 18th–20th centuries. What do these ‘hidden histories’ tell us? How do these historical experiences compare to those of people today? What more can be done to improve people’s prospects, happiness and social inclusion? This public debate, in partnership with Disability Wales, focuses on how the happiness and wellbeing of disabled people have changed over time.

booking required
‘Windsongs of the Blessed Bay’

Swansea University
Series: Swansea University, Heritage, health and wellbeing

Wednesday 18 November, 13:00–TBC
Clyne Farm Centre, Swansea

Members of the cast of Windsongs of the Blessed Bay will give a 30-minute presentation on poetic narrative and music at Clyne Farm Centre, Swansea. This is followed by an interactive workshop on ‘creating drama from heritage’ by award-winning dramatist Professor David Britton, head of creative writing at Swansea University, and the cast members. Written by Professor Britton, Windsongs is a mythic play with music and puppetry which explores family, community and heritage from the perspective of a young blind woman, Betrys.

booking required
Being human and the humanities

University of Liverpool
Series: University of Liverpool, Fantastic monsters and machines
Monday 2 November – Friday 18 December, 09:00–17:00 (Mon–Fri)
School of the Arts, University of Liverpool

What does it mean to be human? Why does our perception of what human ‘is’ actually matter? Our exhibition shows representations of humanity from diverse angles, from slavery to the supernatural, from the philosophical to the digital, from the child’s view to questions of human and machine intelligence. The displays, showing off contemporary and cutting-edge research from staff and students, will be accompanied by ‘encounters’ with speakers from various disciplines within the University of Liverpool and beyond, engaging schools and the general public through talks, reading groups, panels and presentations.

no booking required

Digital Women’s Archive North [DWAN] pop-ups

University of Manchester
Thursday 12 November – Sunday 22 December, TBC
Various locations, Manchester (see website)

Digital Women’s Archive North [DWAN] will appear as a pop-up in various partnering archive and heritage sites, to host a series of workshops showcasing archives on women’s histories. DWAN will introduce its digital heritage project and begin collecting new material for it in the form of narratives, images, ephemera or oral histories. Participants will become collaborators and co-producers in the development of DWAN’s ‘living archive’ and there will be a showcase on the final day of the festival. Pop-ups will take place throughout the festival, from 12–22 November.

booking may be required

Shanty mob: reconnecting with Liverpool’s maritime tradition

Liverpool John Moores University
Thursday 12 November, 21:00–23:00 (shanty mob) & Saturday 14 November, 14.00–16.00 (concert/lecture)

Thursday evening: The Pilgrim Pub (21:00), The Cracke (21:30), The Philharmonic (22.00), The Fly in the Loaf (22.30)
Saturday afternoon: Merseyside Maritime Museum

Merseyside’s six-piece Rock Light Rollers group, will ‘shanty mob’ four pubs in Liverpool’s city centre. Drawing on numerous call-and-response shanties associated with Liverpool during its heyday as a port city, the group will break into spontaneous song for customers. Each ‘shanty mob’ will last about 15 minutes before the group moves on to the next venue with audience participation strongly encouraged. On Saturday, the group will perform material from the canon of Liverpool-related sea-shanties at the Maritime Museum. The afternoon concludes with a discussion and illustrations by Dr Gerry Smyth.

booking required
Home is... University of Sheffield

Series: University of Sheffield, Seeing human

Thursday 12 November, open during Central Lending Library opening hours (www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/all-libraries/centrallending.html)

Sheffield Central Library

We all make homes, whether we’ve lived in a place for months or years. This exhibition of photographs by Gemma Thorpe, in collaboration with the University of Sheffield academic Richard Steadman-Jones, illustrates home in its many and varied forms, working with people in the city to define their notion of what home means. It runs from 12–22 November during the Library’s opening hours.

no booking required

Screening of ‘Coriolanus’ Northumbria University

Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens

Thursday 12 November, 14:30–17:30

Roxy Screen, Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle upon Tyne

Join us for a free screening of Shakespeare’s great tragedy Coriolanus, here updated in a recent 2011 film directed by and starring Ralph Fiennes. The screening will be accompanied by a Q&A led by Dr Paul Frazer and Dr Monika Smialkowska, exploring how Shakespeare’s Rome has been used to expose the violence and division of recent international urban conflicts.

booking required

Rewriting Bradford: city, culture and changing representations University of Leeds

Series: University of Leeds, How culture matters: a four-fold exploration

Thursday 12 November, 17:00–20:30

Dye House Gallery, Bradford College

Reflecting on Bradford’s recent history, this event explores representations of the city in various genres of writing and other cultural production. It recognises the value of seeking to ‘rewrite’ dominant representations with complex and future facing narratives. Adopting a TED inspired format, speakers will address how Bradford emerges in literature, oral history and photography, ethnography, policy and press reporting. Each will illuminate how, why and with what effect the city has become synonymous with diverse cultural identities, old and new, local and global. Its starting point is humanities research at the University of Leeds by Seán McLoughlin, co-editor of Writing the City in British Asian Diasporas. It is programmed by Irna Qureshi and Syima Aslam, co-directors of Bradford Literature Festival.

booking required

Ongoing exhibition:

Thursday 12 November – Friday 18 December, during Library opening hours
The portrait and identity

University of Sheffield
Series: University of Sheffield, Seeing human
Thursday 12 November, 18:00–20:00
Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield

How do we look at portraits and how do we see ourselves in them? Spend an evening in one of the galleries of Sheffield’s beautiful Graves Art Gallery with art historian Shearer West, Joe Bray from the University of Sheffield’s School of English and art curator Liz Waring from Museums Sheffield. They’ll explore how we think about portraits and what they tell us about ourselves.

booking required

A walk through Newcastle’s history, 1200–1800

Northumbria University
Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens
Friday 13 November, 14:00–15:30
Outside Blackfriars Restaurant, Newcastle upon Tyne

Led by members of Northumbria University’s research group in medieval and early modern history, this city centre walking tour will start at Blackfriars Restaurant, and will include Admiral Collingwood’s School, Castle Keep, Holy Jesus Hospital and Newcastle Cathedral. The tour will give insights into fascinating stories connected with the buildings and places of pre-modern Newcastle. Highlights are legends around medieval recipes, the Black Death in Newcastle, stories of saints and glass windows, thoughts and facts about growing up in pre-modern England and the documentation of individual experiences in the English Civil War. Tours will be limited to 30 participants.

booking required (30 places per tour)

Seeing human in song

University of Sheffield
Series: University of Sheffield, Seeing human
Friday 13 November, 19:00–21:00
Upper Chapel, Sheffield

Friday the 13th is the perfect date to think about superstition, song and stories. Drawing from her new album, Old Adam, the award-winning folk singer and University of Sheffield ethnomusicologist Fay Hield brings together other academics and cartoonists, storytellers and poets in what promises to be a lively discussion, peppered with song, poetry and stories. Come along to be a part of it.

booking required
Let’s discover stained glass

University of Sheffield
Series: University of Sheffield, Seeing human
Saturday 14 November, 11:00–16:00
Sheffield Cathedral
What did the whale that swallowed Jonah look like? A man-eating, malevolent monster or a feeble, fumbling fish? Come and discover the art of stained glass at Sheffield Cathedral in this family, child-friendly art activity. Be inspired by the Cathedral’s famous Lantern Window and have a go at making your own stained glass window as an illustration of well-known Old Testament stories - stories that are common to Christianity, Judaism and Islam alike. As well as making your own stained glass window, you can also take on the challenge of our stained glass window treasure hunt – how many stained glass windows can you find?

no booking required

Animating poetry: workshop for 14–19-year-olds

University of Sheffield
Series: University of Sheffield, Seeing human
Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 November, 10:00–16:00
Site Gallery, Sheffield
Young people aged between 14–19 who are interested in poetry, animation and paper-cutting will get the opportunity to work with a poet, an academic, an artist and an animator to explore the techniques involved in making poem-films. This workshop will use the new poem-film Questions of Travel - based on an Elizabeth Bishop poem of the same name - as a starting point to explore a range of creative skills and make a short animation. The event is over two days, 14 and 15 November, and participants must attend on both days.

booking required

We are what we keep: exhibition and participation station

University of Leeds
Series: University of Leeds, How culture matters: a four-fold exploration
Saturday 14 November, 10:00–16:00
Merrion Centre, Leeds
Many families own some sort of ‘family archive’: documents, photographs, heirlooms, scrapbooks, recipes and all sorts of other items that reveal insights into past generations and preserve family stories for future ones – even if they don’t consider these to be a ‘proper’ archive. A research team from the universities of Leeds, Birmingham, Cardiff and Royal Holloway has examined family archives through time. Emerging from The Family Archive Project, ‘We are what we keep’ pop-up exhibition, participation station and craft activities invite participants to learn about family archiving and create their own archive. We will be creating a communal ‘family archive’ from the items people tell us about, and give them the opportunity to take away ideas and information about how to start archiving.

no booking required
Being a medieval human: natural and supernatural encounters / ‘Bisclavret’: a medieval werewolf tale

University of Liverpool
Series: University of Liverpool, Fantastic monsters and machines
Saturday 14 November, talk: 12:00–12:40, performances: 13:00–13:30 and 14.00–14.30
The Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

The University of Liverpool takes the Being Human concept a step further by exploring the boundaries of humanity by highlighting how animals and supernatural beings in works like Marie de France’s 12th-century Breton lai, Bisclavret (The Werewolf), can have relevance to everyday lives. Dr Sarah Peverley’s talk about what it meant to be human in the Middle Ages precedes performances of Bisclavret by the Liverpool University Players at the Walker Art Gallery. The performances pave the way for talking about what it means to be human – in the past and present – by looking at how medieval literature uses fantastic and imaginative realms to talk about the human condition.

no booking required

The music of light: public workshop and poster exhibition

Durham University
Series: Durham University, Reaching out: collaborative humanities research
Saturday 14 November, 14:00–16:00
Trevelyan College, Durham

‘The music of light: public workshop and poster exhibition’ showcases research into understandings of light from the middle ages to modern science. Participants can explore the creation of colours, send messages along a light beam and experience a simulation of light being bent by the gravity of their own bodies. Alongside modern science, historical understandings of light will be presented, especially the world of Robert Grosseteste (d.1253). This features the work of the Ordered Universe Research Project (www.ordered-universe.com), whose members will be on hand to explain the richness of collaboration between medievalists and modern scientists. The event is supported by the Institute of Physics.

booking required

Sleep, sleeplessness and the modern world

Lancaster University
Series: Lancaster University, After dark: sleep and sleeplessness in the modern world
Saturday 14 November, 14:00.
Storey Institute, Lancaster

Three talks, with audience participation, on changing understandings of sleep in the modern world. Dr Michael Greaney will speak on how writers and artists have drawn inspiration from both sleep and sleeplessness; Dr Hilary Hinds will look at the history of twin beds as a fashionable mode of co-sleeping for married couples, and Prof Padraig Monaghan will examine the effects of sleep and insomnia on creativity, learning and memory.

booking required

Related event:
performance on Saturday 14 November, 16:00–17:00
Our multilingual city

Northumbria University
Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens
Saturday 14 November, 14:00–16:00
Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne
Led by Professor Ewa Dabrowska, this series of short talks and accompanying audience quiz will explore the linguistic diversity found in the major community language centres of Newcastle.

booking required

The music of light: concert

Durham University
Series: Durham University, Reaching out: collaborative humanities research
Saturday 14 November, 16:00–17:00
Trevelyan College, Durham University
‘The music of light: concert’ explores light through music, and its connections to other expressions of the phenomenon and power of light. It will feature new work by local composer Janet Graham, and pieces by Bach, Rachmaninov, Handel, Part and others. This musical journey from the Renaissance to contemporary society will reflect on how music and physics share a creative common structure, why light has inspired music through the ages and whether music can help communicate some of the properties of light that physics helps us to understand. The concert, in collaboration with a local Durham chamber choir, will be recorded. The concert is supported by the Institute of Physics and the RVW Trust.

booking required

Related event:
workshop on Saturday 14 November, 14:00–16:00
Night travels
Lancaster University
Series: Lancaster University, After dark: sleep and sleeplessness in the modern world
Saturday 14 November, TBC
Storey Institute, Lancaster
An immersive after dark walk through Lancaster’s historic streets and buildings. Part lecture, part theatrical performance, this event introduces participants to a different way of experiencing and understanding the city at night.
booking required

Sugar Cane Alley:
Joseph Zobel centenary screening
Leeds Beckett University
Saturday 14 November, TBC
Venue TBC
This semi-autobiographical film is based on the book Black Shack Alley, written by Martinique writer Joseph Zobel. The award-winning film transports viewers to 1930s Martinique, an island under French colonial rule, when poor rural black children can hope for little more than a life of back-breaking work in the sugar cane fields. Young Joseph escapes this fate and gains an education through the many sacrifices of his extraordinary grandmother. The screening is part of the Joseph Zobel centenary celebrations taking place in Europe, West Africa and the Caribbean. It will be introduced in Leeds by Joseph Zobel’s daughter and granddaughter. Part of Leeds International Film Festival, full details to be announced 9 October.
booking required

Life is short
Edge Hill University
Sunday 15 November, 11:00–18:00
Bluecoat, Liverpool’s centre for contemporary arts
A celebration of all things small and perfectly formed, from the hadron to the haiku, the bosun to the butterfly. Inspired by Edge Hill’s reputation as a champion of the short story, this mini-festival of talks, workshops and performances will focus on how we perceive and capture moments in time, on miniature objects, microscopic life forms and small spaces, and on the short form in the arts and literature. Participants can contribute their own ‘thumbnail sketches’ in words or images as a record of the day’s events and their responses to them. Drop in for a short while, or stay all day!
no booking required
Stories of migration and home in Newcastle

Northumbria University
Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens
Sunday 15 November, 11:30–14:30
Discovery Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne

This event, led by Dr Tanja Bueltmann and colleagues from the Discovery Museum, will feature short talks for adults and activities for children, including storytelling. There will also be a pop-up museum where members of the public can bring in their own objects representative of local migration stories to talk about why they are important to them and the story these objects tell. Objects brought in will be captured digitally, together with their background story, to feature in an online exhibition.

booking required

Screening of the ‘Witchfinder General’

Northumbria University
Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens
Monday 16 November, 20:15–22:15
Roxy Screen, Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle upon Tyne

Join us for a free screening of Michael Reeve’s controversial horror film which has gained cult status since its release in the 1960s. The film follows the exploits of the Witchfinder General as he roots out sorcery amidst the backdrop of England’s 17th-century Civil Wars. The screening will be accompanied by a Q&A led by Dr Claire Nally, exploring how narratives of witchcraft are used to raise questions about the policing of innocent citizens.

booking required

After dark film screenings

Lancaster University
Series: Lancaster University, After dark: sleep and sleeplessness in the modern world
Monday 16 November, TBC
Dukes Cinema, Lancaster

On 16, 18 and 20 November the Dukes will show three films on the themes of sleep, dreams and nocturnal experience. There will be brief introductions and time for discussion.

booking required

Related events:
screenings also take place on Wednesday 18 November and Friday 20 November
We are what we keep: interactive archive workshop

University of Leeds
Series: University of Leeds, How culture matters: a four-fold exploration
Tuesday 17 November, 12:00–14:00
Discovery Centre, Leeds

Experts from the Family Archive research team, Leeds Museums and Galleries, Leeds Local and Family History Library and The National Archives will provide members of the public with advice (and their own starter pack) on how to preserve items and memories. Many families own some sort of ‘family archive’; documents, photographs, heirlooms, scrapbooks, recipes and all sorts of other items that reveal insights into past generations and preserve family stories for future ones – even if they don’t consider these to be a ‘proper’ archive. A research team from the universities of Leeds, Birmingham, Cardiff and Royal Holloway has examined family archives through time. Emerging from ‘The Family Archive Project’, ‘We are what we keep’, these events invite participants to drop in to pop-up activities in Leeds city centre, or attend a lunchtime talk.

Related events: also take place on Thursday 19 November, 12:30–13:00

booking required

Reflections on rebellion: history, myth and the Jacobites

University of Central Lancashire
Tuesday 17 November, 12:30–13:30
Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston

Join historians from the University of Central Lancashire for a series of talks, discussions and debates on the history, mythology and legacy of the Jacobite rebellion and the Battle of Preston.

no booking required

Performing violence: video shorts

University of Leeds
Series: University of Leeds, How culture matters: a four-fold exploration
Tuesday 17 November, 18:00–19:30
The Tetley Art Gallery, Leeds

This event explores the performance of violence across different arts and media. It will feature a panel discussion with the project team from the University of Leeds and Opera North plus special guests, and screenings of selected short films submitted by local secondary schools and partner organisations. Three-minute films, tackling some aspect of the performance of violence, can take any form, from vox pops on a phone to creative films taking a more performative approach. Participants are invited to respond to the following questions: What are your opinions of a specific violent performance in any art form? Can staged violence help us understand real life violence? Why are people so attracted to violent art? Selected films will be added to the Performing Violence website (arts.leeds.ac.uk/performingviolence/).

booking required
Shakespeare’s citizens: readings and responses

Northumbria University
Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens
Tuesday 17 November, 18:00–20:00
Literary and Philosophical Society Library, committee room, Newcastle upon Tyne

Interested in what Shakespeare has to say about modern urban living? Led by Dr Adam Hansen, this special session of the established monthly Shakespeare Club will read and discuss still-relevant passages about the conflicts and challenges of city life in Shakespeare’s plays, with recordings of readings distributed via a Shakespeare Club blog. No previous knowledge of Shakespeare’s drama is required, and all are welcome.

booking required

A life well lived?

University of Sheffield
Series: University of Sheffield, Seeing human
Tuesday 17 November, 19:00–21:00
Sheffield Cathedral

What do we mean when we talk about a ‘good life’ when a good life for us isn’t necessarily good for others? Is this an ethical question, a collective one which looks at our role within society, or is it an individual dilemma? In discussion, Angie Hobbs, professor for the public understanding of philosophy at the University of Sheffield speaks for the human while Robert McKay, senior lecturer in the School of English, provides a perspective based on his work on human-animal relations.

booking required

Shakespeare and sleep

Lancaster University
Series: Lancaster University, After dark: sleep and sleeplessness in the modern world
Wednesday 18 November, 13:00–16:30
Bowland College, Lancaster University

Professor Alison Findlay and Dr Liz Oakley-Brown will be giving a 50-minute talk and an hour-long drama workshop on the topic of ‘Shakespeare and sleep in the modern world’. Designed for sixth-form students, these sessions will consider the topical significance of sleep in a range of Shakespearean texts, for example Hamlet, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Macbeth.

booking required
New writing at Northumbria

Northumbria University
Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens
Wednesday 18 November, 19:00–21:00
Literary & Philosophical Society Library, James Knott Reading Room, Newcastle upon Tyne

Northumbria University’s annual showcase of creative writing from current postgraduate students and staff. Writers on our PhD and MA programmes, some highly experienced and published writers and others reading for the first time, will give short readings from their work in poetry, prose and script. This is an annual event showcasing established writers and new voices and is a great opportunity to hear cutting-edge creative work being produced in the north east.

booking required

We make history

Museums Showoff

University of Sheffield
Series: University of Sheffield, Seeing human
Thursday 19 November, 18:00–20:00
Sheffield Tap, Sheffield Station/Sheaf Street

Join us for a night in the pub with Dr Angela McShane (V&A) and Lucie Skeaping, musician and presenter of Radio 3’s Early Music Show, to explore drinking in history and song from the 16th-19th centuries. Charge your glasses ready for an evening of ballads and insight into past drinking cultures.

booking required

Intoxicants in the Sheffield Tap

University of Sheffield
Series: University of Sheffield, Seeing human
Thursday 19 November, 18:00–20:00
Sheffield Tap, Sheffield Station/Sheaf Street

An evening of chaotic history-themed cabaret where you’ll discover things about history you never knew! Manchester’s finest historians, archivists and curators will entertain you with gossip, intrigue and behind the scenes stories as they reveal the best bits about the past. Come along for an evening of laughter, music and fun, and find out who makes history!

booking required (age 18+)
Newes from the dead

University of Leeds

Series: University of Leeds, How culture matters: a four-fold exploration

Thursday 19 November, 18:00–20:00

Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds

An innovative evening in partnership with the Thackray Medical Museum and Professor Jane Taylor (School of English, University of Leeds) will feature puppets to explore a key moment in the history of neurology. She will provide a semi-staged lecture, ‘Newes from the dead’, about her play that considers the true story of a young woman hanged for infanticide in 17th-century England and then handed over to anatomists for dissection. But she revived on the anatomy table and became a test case in the history of women’s rights, medical history and conceptions of the human.

booking required

Cyberselves exhibition

University of Sheffield

Series: University of Sheffield, Seeing human

Thursday 19 November, 18:30–20:15

The Circle, 33 Rockingham Lane, Sheffield

The ‘Cyberselves exhibition’ encourages visitors to experience cyber-worlds with cutting-edge technology and be involved in the debate around issues such as, ‘How are we being transformed by our participation in cyber-spaces?’, ‘What are the consequences for our conceptions of self when we can transport ourselves to virtual worlds?’ and ‘How have we imagined such transformations of the self through technology in popular media?’. This hands-on demonstration and talk by Dr Michael Szollosy and team from Sheffield Robotics will take your thinking to a whole new level about how our everyday lives are being transformed by our participation in cyber-worlds.

booking required

Wild & wicked women: Newcastle’s witch trials

Northumbria University

Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens

Thursday 19 November, 19:00–20:30

Literary & Philosophical Society Library, James Knott Reading Room, Newcastle upon Tyne

Come along to hear more about witch trials in 17th-century Newcastle upon Tyne. Dr Claire Nally will give a public talk about the trials, and there will also be a chance to view archival documents on the trials from Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums, as well as burial records from St Andrew’s Church.

booking required

Related event:
workshop on Saturday 14 November, 14:00–16:00
Your money or your after-life: public forum

Durham University

Series: Durham University, Reaching out: collaborative humanities research

Thursday 19 November, 19:00–21:00

Durham Cathedral, Prior’s Hall

‘Your money or your after-life: forum’ is an open discussion forum led by Durham Cathedral bringing together international researchers from history, archaeology, anthropology and religious studies, and representatives from different faith and denominational communities. The subject of gift and offering in different religious traditions will be explored, and the wider implications of these practices for community growth, for heritage management, and for spiritual life. How religious institutions are supported, how this is connected to conceptions of the after-life, and the place of money within religious life (or not) are the questions to be considered. The forum will include a question and answer session and presentations from a variety of perspectives. Tickets available from World Heritage Visitor Centre, Durham.

booking required

Your money or your after-life: public workshop

Durham University

Series: Durham University, Reaching out: collaborative humanities research

Friday 20 November, 10:00–16:00

Durham Cathedral, Prior’s Hall

This public workshop draws on and will present the results of an international research project: ‘The Economy of Salvation in the Middle Ages’ funded by the Norwegian Research Council. It features research on gifts in the Christian tradition, with a special focus on the middle ages, explored through a range of themes and subjects. These include Norwegian medieval Stave Churches and the extraordinary finds of coins and other objects from medieval Scandinavia; what the middle ages thought about Purgatory; what offerings meant in the context of illness and disease; how medieval churches were built and sustained. Shrines and offerings to the saints and theological debates about money and its use will also be examined, as will a documentary on a money-offering ceremony in a contemporary Tongan Methodist church. Tickets available from World Heritage Visitor Centre, Durham.

no booking required

We are what we keep: family archives lunchtime talk

University of Leeds

Series: University of Leeds, How culture matters: a four-fold exploration

Friday 20 November, 13:00–14:00

Leeds Central Library

This lunchtime talk, hosted by Leeds Local and Family History Library, will introduce the history of family archiving and how you can start your own archive. Many families own some sort of ‘family archive’; documents, photographs, heirlooms, scrapbooks, recipes and all sorts of other items that reveal insights into past generations and preserve family stories for future ones – even if they don’t consider these to be a ‘proper’ archive. A research team from the universities of Leeds, Birmingham, Cardiff and Royal Holloway has examined family archives through time. Emerging from The Family Archive Project, ‘We are what we keep’ events invite you to learn more about family archiving and create your very own archive. You can also visit pop-up activities in Leeds city centre and a hands-on workshop.

no booking required
Tyneside radicalism in story and song

Northumbria University
Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens
Friday 20 November, 18:30–21:00
Mining Institute, lecture theatre and library, Newcastle upon Tyne

Interested in Tyneside’s radical past? Come and join us for an evening of short talks on episodes from Newcastle’s radical history accompanied by performances from local musicians Benny Graham and Tony Corcoran. The evening will give a flavour of revolt and rabble rousing in the north east, and you’ll be able to find out more about how to become involved in Northumbria University’s Mapping Radical Tyneside project.

booking required

Being posthuman?

University of Liverpool
Series: University of Liverpool, Fantastic monsters and machines
Saturday 21 November, 10:00–17:30
Foundation for Art and Creative Technology (FACT), Liverpool

From Humans to Person of Interest, from CHAPPIE and RoboCop to The Terminator, and from Mass Effect to Deus Ex, contemporary culture has a fascination with, and fear of, machines that can think. Through a film screening, discussion forum and poster display, we will explore representations of cyborgs, digital consciousness and virtual environments, asking questions about how technology is changing us, our attitudes towards artificial intelligence, and considering what our relationship with machines might say about ‘being human’. Being posthuman will prompt an examination of the impact of technology in our everyday lives and how it might affect us in the future. Is a cyborg still a human? Are we already cyborgs? Should we be frightened of AI? Are we still human if our minds are uploaded into machines?

booking required

Rebuilding Marvell’s Hull with Minecraft

Hull History Centre
Saturday 21 November, 10:00–16:00
Hull History Centre

The Hull History Centre will be ‘Rebuilding Marvell’s Hull with Minecraft’. This interactive workshop will combine Dr Stewart Mottram’s research into Andrew Marvell and 17th-century Hull with the History Centre’s ongoing use of the popular game Minecraft to help bring history alive for younger audiences. Minecraft experts will be on-hand to help participants build four key landmarks from Andrew Marvell’s Hull – Beverley Gate, Holy Trinity Church, Hull Grammar School and the Hull Charterhouse – using plans, maps, and other historical material in the History Centre’s collections to help visualise the appearance of the buildings around the time of the English Civil War. The completed buildings will be showcased on the HullCraft website (hullcraft.com).

booking required
## Northern England listings

### Cover girls: the changing face of girls’ comics

**Liverpool John Moores University**

**Saturday 21 November, 11:00–15:00**

**Central Library, Liverpool**

This event, celebrating girls’ comics and magazines, presents examples over the course of the 20th century from *Butterfly* to *Honey*. It will include vocal biographies of characters that regularly appeared in the comics such as *Twinkle*, *Mandy*, *Bunty*, *Judy*, *Diana*, *Princess*, *Jackie* and *Misty*. There will be a variety of workshops, guest speakers and fun activities for parents, children and young people.

**no booking required**

### The vanishing woman: thoughts on female visibility

**Leeds College of Art**

**Saturday 21 November, 13:00–16:00**

**Central Library, Liverpool**

To coincide with Southbank Centre’s touring exhibition of Louise Bourgeois: Autobiography Series at Leeds College of Art, this afternoon of four short talks will showcase recent research exploring the connections between wellbeing and feminism. The first part will consider the active female body with contributions by Sharon Bainbridge and Kai Syng Tan, followed by a second session on skins, navels and female fetishism by Sam Broadhead and Catriona McAra. In total we will query and debate the disappearance or obscurity of certain types of bodies in contrast to the proliferation of other forms of cultural representations of femininity.

**no booking required**

### Keeping it real? Critical race and musical performance

**Manchester Metropolitan University**

**Friday 20 November, 17:00–19:00**

**Brooks Building, Manchester**

Focusing on creative responses to race issues, this event will feature an original commission and worldwide premiere of new composition for Drum’n’bass, Gamelan and Strings from the new album, *A Different Shade of Blue*: a joint project between Dr Ornette Clennon (composer) and the Northern Chamber Orchestra. Youth from the local Trafford and Manchester Youth Offending Services and Intensive Alternative Custody programmes will use the performance as inspiration for their own MC-ing/ rap-inspired songs about BAME (black, Asian and minority ethnic) representation in popular culture.

**booking may be required**

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To book online and for up-to-date time, venue and access information, and even more events, visit: beinghumanfestival.org | @BeingHuman15
A night at the museum: 18th-century dance, fashion and health

Northumbria University
Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens
Saturday 21 November, 19:00–21:00
Laing Art Gallery, 18th & 19th Century Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne

Led by Dr Helen Williams, with members of the Long Eighteenth-Century Research Group, this evening event, which features performances, stalls, vintage clothes and tours of the Laing’s 18th and 19th-century galleries, will explore 18th-century dance, fashion and disease alongside modern-day parallels.

booking required

John Lilburne: local boy, leveller, and civil war radical

Northumbria University
Series: Northumbria University, City and citizens
Sunday 22 November, 17:30–19:00
Black Gate, Castle Keep, Newcastle upon Tyne

Come along to hear more about ‘freeborn John’, a local man who helped shape modern ideas about human rights during the English Civil War period. At this public lecture, Professor David Walker will be celebrating John Lilburne’s achievements and his relevance for contemporary debates about public democracy and human rights.

booking required
In Robeson’s footsteps: to be or not to be?

Warwick University
Thursday 12 November, 18:00–21:00 (exhibition, performance and discussion), Thursday 12 November – Sunday 22 November (exhibition)

The Drum, Birmingham
In 1930, singer, actor and activist Paul Robeson made history by playing Othello. An exhibition, performance and discussion will draw from this dramatic moment – a black performer on a white stage, confronting prejudice. After dozens of interviews with BAME (black, Asian and minority ethnic) actors and directors, and joining forces with Birmingham’s The Drum, the University’s Multicultural Shakespeare project presents an exhibition and a drama documentary, where three of today’s leading performers speak the pioneers’ words – and their own. The exhibition, To tell my story, will be on throughout the festival.

no booking required

Telling tales of Nottingham

University of Nottingham
Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city
Thursday 12 November, Thursday 12 November – Sunday 22 November (workshop and exhibition)

Venue TBC, Nottingham
Guardian photographer, David Sillitoe, will help students tell the story of their weekend in Nottingham, through the eye of a lens. During the workshop the learners will use anything from a mobile phone to a digital SLR camera to compete to make the most intriguing documentary photographs, the best of which will form part of the Telling Tales of Nottingham exhibition. A screening of Alan Sillitoe’s novel Saturday Night and Sunday Morning, which captured the realities of life in Nottingham in the 1950s, will be used to inspire the novice photographers.

the workshop takes place on Thursday 12 November.

booking required

Move on up!

De Montfort University
Thursday 12 November, 19:00–21:00
Newark Houses Museum, Leicester

Featuring a new exhibition of women’s lifestyle magazines from the De Montfort University archive and a talk by Dr Alice Wood, this event officially launches ‘Move On Up!’ a study and celebration of aspiration.

booking may be required
Pop-up language classes

University of Nottingham
Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city
Saturday 14 November, 13:00–17:00
Locations across Nottingham city centre

The event will give individuals and families a taste of what it means to study a language offered by the University of Nottingham’s Language Centre, including Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese and Spanish. Led by expert tutors with many years of experience, the main focus will be on beginners. But there will be sessions for more proficient speakers in languages such as French, Spanish and German. The event will offer an opportunity to learn more about how to continue studying languages at evening classes. You can sign up for these half hour classes on the day with one of the centre’s language ambassadors.

no booking required

Ongoing exhibition:
The art codes will be on display around the Creative Quarter of Nottingham, Saturday 14 November – Sunday 22 November

Recurring event:
The same activities will be repeated on Saturday 21 November (same time and locations)

Art and urban culture: Wright of Derby, then and now

University of Nottingham
Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city
Friday 13 November, 16:00–17:00
Nottingham Castle Museum

This presentation by Professor Stephen Daniels (University of Nottingham) and Lucy Bamford (Derby Museums and Art Gallery) will explore the enduring appeal of the art of Joseph Wright of Derby (1734–97), in his own time and since, including current plans for displaying his work. Drawing on partnership research between the University of Nottingham and Derby Museums and Art Gallery, it examines changing relations between Wright and Derby in terms of wider issues of painting and place, civic culture and artistic heritage.

booking required

Poetry treasure hunt: how to make a secret art code

University of Nottingham
Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city
Saturday 14 November, 10:30–12:30
Nottingham Writers’ Studio

Starting with a public workshop on how to make an ‘art code’, participants will make their own aesthetically-pleasing barcode, encrypting the secrets of a poem within their design. These secret codes will be hidden around the Creative Quarter of Nottingham for friends, family and fans of poetry to find over the next eight days.

booking required

Midlands listings
book online: beinghumanfestival.org

Ongoing exhibition:
Recurring event:
Creative city: artists’ and makers’ fair

**University of Nottingham**

Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city

**Sunday 15 November, 12:00–16:30**

The Galleries of Justice Museum, Nottingham

This afternoon fair will offer a collection of local artists’ and makers’ work in a truly unique setting to celebrate Nottingham as a creative city. For one day only, visitors will be able to view and purchase the beautiful work of local artisans, with a range of hand-made pieces and stunning artwork.

booking required

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Hidden tales of the Theatre Royal: animating the archive

**University of Nottingham**

Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city

**Sunday 15 November, 14:00–17:00**

Theatre Royal, Nottingham

The Theatre Royal Nottingham has teamed up with the University of Nottingham’s School of English and Horizon Digital Economy Research team to bring insights into the Theatre’s 150-year history. From stage door dramas and ghosts in the old hotel, visitors will experiment with new technologies to access different stories from the theatre’s historic collections and bring its past to life as well as highlight other locations in the city centre. Come along with your smartphone ready to download the new Theatre Royal Archive App and discover secrets from the past.

booking required

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Creating a public art gallery

**University of Nottingham**

Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city

**Monday 16 November, 17:45–19:15**

Nottingham Castle Museum

The idea of a public art gallery is something we take for granted but such institutions arose as part of broader developments in society. Nottingham has a special place in the story of British museums as it saw the creation of the first regional public art gallery at the end of the 19th century. What did this look like, who was it for, and how did its collection come together? Professor Richard Wrigley (University of Nottingham) will explore these questions and focus on some of the remarkable objects and exhibits which came to Nottingham as a result.

booking required
Looking back on the Midland Group

University of Nottingham
Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city
Tuesday 17 November, TBC
Nottingham Contemporary

The Midland Group was one of the most significant organisations for the display and promotion of new art in Nottingham. The exhibitions and activities it organised helped to create a local audience for contemporary art, and brought international developments in the field to the region. Although its heyday was the 1960s and early 1970s, and it closed altogether in 1987, this panel discussion will focus on how its legacy is still felt in the city, and the way it continues to inspire a new generation of artists working here.

booking required

Consider smell: Nottingham

University of Nottingham
Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city
Wednesday 18 November, 16:00 onwards
Malt Cross, Nottingham

Consider Smell is an opportunity to sniff various places and times, learn about olfactory variation, and to experience artists, scientists, and designers working together to understand how smells contribute to our lives. Starting with an exploration of the Nottingham caves, which perspire over 900 years of olfactory traces from tanneries to air-raid shelters, the event surveys different regions and times through the nose from the local neighbourhood to the Arctic. An opening of a public interactive art exhibit of smellscapes in Nottingham will begin at 19:00 in the Henderson Gallery, Malt Cross and the exhibition will run until Saturday 21 November.

booking required

Not all jam and ‘Jerusalem’: WI wartime activities day

University of Worcester
Series: University of Worcester
Wednesday 18 November, 10:00–16:00
The Hive, Worcester

A day of activities, displays and events to demonstrate that in both the First and Second World Wars there was much more to the Women’s Institutes than jam making and singing Jerusalem. Watch re-enactments of early WI meetings, find out how to: form a pig-club, gather food from the hedgerows, get a recipe to make jam with salt and eggless sponge cake, undertake an evacuation survey and plan your ideal post-war house.

There will be opportunities to have a go at some of the WI’s wartime crafts and help us to make a virtual patchwork quilt from photographs, patterns and pictures.

no booking required

Ongoing exhibition:

Ongoing exhibition:
Wednesday 18 November – Saturday 21 November. See also Consider Smell: London, 21 November
Guided walk and creative writing workshop

University of Nottingham
Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city
Wednesday 18 November, 10:30–15:00
D.H. Lawrence Heritage Centre, Eastwood

Join us on a guided walk from Eastwood, the hometown of D.H. Lawrence, to the Erewash canal and discover some of the locations important to the author’s first creative impulse. Use the walk to inspire your own creative writing in a two-hour workshop (13:00–15:00) with our experienced writer Megan Taylor. The walk will start at the D.H. Lawrence Heritage Centre on Mansfield Road at 10:30 and is expected to take approximately two hours (please wear appropriate footwear).

booking required

The sewing bee: unpicking contemporary sewing cultures

University of Leicester
Wednesday 18 November, 18:30–21:30
The Sewing Café, Hinckley

This event celebrates humanities research and the revival of home sewing in Britain through a ‘sewing bee’ and research workshop. Following a presentation from Dr Jessica Bain about her current research on the British sewing revival, participants will ‘stitch and bitch’: talk and sew together. Reflecting on their memories, motivations and experiences of sewing, they will critically consider their craft practice in new ways.

Britain’s sewing revival provokes a number of questions: why, at a time when buying clothes has never been cheaper, are people choosing to take up sewing? Does it tap into a need to make and create instead of just consume? What personal politics might motivate people to sew? This event considers the cultural significance of such movements and explores how humanities research can help answer the questions. Come along.

booking required

Lawrence, class and culture: talk by Professor Neil Roberts

University of Nottingham
Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city
Wednesday 18 November, 19:00–20:30
D.H. Lawrence Heritage Centre, Eastwood

Growing up in a mining family, but closer to his mother who read Flaubert and Meredith than to his father who struggled to read the local paper, D.H. Lawrence had a ‘second home’ with the Chambers, another working-class family who read Hardy together and subscribed to the English Review. The culture that he absorbed through these channels was vital to his formation, but he was ambivalent about the idea of culture and used working-class speech as a mark of emotional authenticity. The talk is given by Professor Neil Roberts, professor emeritus of English literature at the University of Sheffield and honorary professor of D.H. Lawrence studies at the University of Nottingham.

booking required

Related event:
see Friday 13 November, London
 defining digital
Dickens: bloggers unite!

University of Buckingham
Series: University of Buckingham, Digital Dickens
Thursday 19 November, TBC
Philip Collins Seminar Room, University of Leicester

Between 2012 and 2014, Dickens Journals Online and the Victorian Studies Centre at the University of Leicester joined resources to run two popular online reading groups, during which participants would post weekly blogs in step with online re-serialisation of Dickens’s A Tale of Two Cities and Wilkie Collins’s No Name. Academics and non-academics alike joined in the discussion. Now, for the first time, the group will unite as many as possible of the bloggers who took part in a wide-ranging workshop to reflect critically on the experience of reading Dickens and reading digitally. Come along to hear about their experiences and share your own thoughts on reading in a digital age. Refreshments will be provided.

booking may be required

Related events:
See Saturday 14 November (University of Buckingham), Tuesday 17 November (London), Saturday 21 November (London)
How to research and preserve your WI’s history

Singleton Women’s Institute in West Sussex, the very first WI in England, sent their archives off to become salvage as part of their Second World War efforts. This event involves two workshops for Women’s Institute members interested in researching the history of their WI. The first workshop, which runs from 10:30–12:00, will give advice on how to develop your knowledge and skills in archival and online research. The second workshop from 13:30–15:00, is for institutes that still have their records and archives and would like guidance on preserving these materials for future generations. Both workshops will be led by Jenni Waugh, an archivist and community project manager who has worked with WIs in Worcestershire exploring their history.

booking required

Page vs stage

This event asks whether performance poetry is better or worse than poetry on the page? Is that even the right question to ask? What can the two traditions of poetry learn from each other? Are they really different, or merely contrasting aspects of the same art form? Join Mouthy Poets and Nottingham Writers’ Studio for a lively evening combining readings with debate and audience participation.

booking required

But I know this city!

A city-wide reading of B.S. Johnson’s ‘The Unfortunates’

In 1969 B.S. Johnson’s The Unfortunates was published as a ‘book in a box’ with each of its 27 chapters being loose and, other than ‘First’ and ‘Last’, available to be read in any order. Over the weekend of 21–22 November, theatre company Excavate will perform this important novel in 27 different locations: bars, bookshops, bus stops and a host of the finest nooks and crannies that Nottingham has to offer. Each audience member will be given a map to help them traverse their way across the city and to navigate their way through this wonderful novel in any way they wish.

no booking required
P.H. Emerson: photographer and author

University of Nottingham
Series: University of Nottingham, Creative city
Saturday 21 November, 10:00–16:00
Nottingham Castle Museum

Peter Henry Emerson bought his first camera in 1881 and founded the Camera Club of London in 1885. Defined by one critic as the ‘Courbet of England’, Emerson argued for naturalistic photography and explored the lives of England’s rural inhabitants, particularly in East Anglia, through his images and writings. This one-day symposium explores his photographic and editorial vision, and is an opportunity to see ‘P.H. Emerson: presented by the author’ exhibition. Speakers include: Dr Hope Kingsley (Curator of the Wilson Centre for Photography, London) and David Matless (Professor of Cultural Geography, University of Nottingham).

booking may be required

Revealing local history

Leicestershire Victoria County History
Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed
Saturday 21 November, 10:00–15:00
University of Leicester

This Wikipedia edit-a-thon allows those taking part to create and enhance local history Wikipedia articles using Victoria County History (VCH) and British History Online (BHO) materials. Using these texts as source material for Wikipedia articles continues the revelation process that begins by bringing archival material to print with the red books and then into digital format on BHO. Training will be provided on the day. The same event will be held in three locations: Leicester, Gloucester and London.

booking required

Humans of Birmingham

University of Birmingham
Series: University of Birmingham, Creative city
Saturday 21 November, 15:00–16:30
Learning Centre, University of Birmingham

Who are the ‘humans of Birmingham’? What kinds of culture do they practice and why is their natural habitat in the West Midlands? This roundtable of five-minute talks by researchers, artists, writers and representatives of the cultural sector, considers what it means to work in the humanities in Birmingham today. Organisers and local academics will also consider the impact of Birmingham’s urban environment and street culture, while author Honor Gavin and Arts Collective BAZ will shed light on the city as a source of both inspiration and ‘semi-satire’. A panel discussion on what is distinct about art and academic research follows.

booking required
Being Human festival launch day

**Being Human Festival**
Thursday 12 November, 12:30 onwards (18:30, panel discussion)

**Senate House, London**
This year’s festival will launch with a day of interactive workshops and activities exploring the issues facing humanity and how the humanities can help. The Being Human Lab will bring together researchers, artists and technologists. Simultaneously, urban explorers will be ‘hacking’ into the foundations of Senate House itself, bringing unseen elements of this historic building to light.

In the evening, a panel of experts including clergyman and journalist Reverend Giles Fraser, experimental physicist and writer Dame Athene Donald, economist John Kay and BBC 4 radio presenter and psychologist Claudia Hammond will tell us how the humanities inform their work. This discussion will be chaired by SAS’s chair in public understanding of the humanities, Professor Sarah Churchwell. Come along and join us as we kick off the festival!

**booking required for panel discussion**

Revealed: a big idea a day

**School of Advanced Study, University of London**
**Thursday 12 November–Sunday 22nd November, select times**

**Senate House, London**
Throughout the festival we will be curating a series of pop-up talks, blogs, podcasts, performances and digital activities that will reveal a ‘big idea a day’ about being human and the humanities. We’ve got some surprises in store, so check out the online programme for latest details or pop in to the coordinating hub at Senate House to find out more!

**no booking required**

Senate House revealed: tours

**School of Advanced Study, University of London**
(Institute of Modern Languages Research)
**Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed**
**Thursday 12 November – Friday 13 November, 12:30–13:30 & 17:00–18:00**

**Senate House, London**
What lies beneath Senate House? One of the most recognisable buildings in London, home to the WWII Ministry of Information and an inspiration behind George Orwell’s *1984*, London’s first ‘skyscraper’ also houses a network of switch rooms, utility tunnels and hidden spaces. This tour will take you on a journey through the building’s varied architectures, geographies, histories and heritages. Led by staff and researchers based in the building, these tours will challenge you to bring out your inner ‘urban explorer’! Tours are offered at 12:30–13:30 and 17:00–18:00 on Thursday 12 November and Friday 13 November. Access restrictions apply.

**booking required (places limited)**

Recurring event:

- **Thursday 12 November – Friday 13 November, 12:30–13:30 & 17:00–18:00**

See our website for up-to-date time and venue details, access information and even more events: beinghumanfestival.org
Mexicans UK

School of Advanced Study, University of London
(Institute of Modern Languages Research)

Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed

Thursday 12 November – Saturday 21 November, open 10:00 – 18:00 Mon – Fri, 10:00 – 17:00 on Sat and closed Sun

Senate House (second floor lobby), London

Mexicans UK is a collaboration between Mexican-British photographers Roxana and Pablo Allison that portrays Mexicans living in the UK. The project stems from their previous series titled ‘Uncovering the invisible: portraits of Latin Americans in the UK’ and was created to give this growing community some exposure, to challenge stereotypes and to acknowledge the Mexican community’s role in British society. It consists of 32 portraits – one person from each state in Mexico – and combines visual and verbal elements enabling the viewer to have a better understanding of Mexican culture and society. The exhibit was awarded funding from The Embassy of Spain’s Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs.

no booking required

Medieval music: chant as cure and miracle

Gresham College

Thursday 12 November, 13:00–14:00

St Sepulchre Without Newgate, London

People in the middle ages believed the singing of monks and clergy during worship had the ability to produce sudden and dramatic cures: the music entered the ear as a healing spiritual balm that could hasten results beyond the reach of any contemporary physician. During this free public lecture Professor Christopher Page will highlight the cripple who crawled into a French abbey in the 12th century and, while the monks were singing, began to cry aloud and extend his contorted limbs – ‘and thus he that came into the church on four legs departed on two’.

no booking required
The journeys of Mayan art

School of Advanced Study, University of London (Institute of Latin American Studies)

Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed

Thursday 12 November, 13:15–14:00

British Museum, London

An overview of the British Museum’s Mexico gallery will precede a look at the Yaxchilán lintels, extraordinary 8th-century AD stone carvings from the ruined Maya city of Yaxchilán, an archaeological site in what is now southern Mexico. Discussion will focus on the lintels as objects that have travelled through time and space. How did they end up in London and the British Museum? How were they transported? What is their relationship to the plaster casts from other Maya sites that are located around the British Museum?

no booking required

On the path to illumination: a curatorial tour

Senate House Library

Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed

Thursday 12 and 19 November (17:00–18:00), Tuesday 17 and Friday 20 November (12:00–13:00)

Senate House Library, London

An ‘Illumination—how the visual captures the imagination’ tour by research librarian and lead curator Colin Homiski, will provide insights into the range of materials on display. It is a chance to discover the inspiration for Frank Gehry’s Guggenheim Museum at Bilbao and Barcelona’s Antoni Gaudí’s La Sagrada Familia, and the connections between Dante Alighieri, the Battle of Waterloo and Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland. Centuries will collide as Michelangelo’s statue of David is juxtaposed alongside a postmodern take by Banksy. The old and the new will be represented through the first images made with the microscope and telescope as well as works by contemporary designer Simon C Page and eco-artist Sarah Turner.

posting required

Post anarchism - public lecture

Goldsmiths, University of London

Series: Goldsmiths, Radical New Cross: protest and dissent 1875–2015

Thursday 12 November, 18:30–20:00

TBC

What is the relevance of anarchism for politics today? While many have dismissed anarchism, its critique of authority and its insistence on equality and liberty places it at the forefront of contemporary radical politics. Saul Newman, professor of political theory at Goldsmiths, will give a public lecture on post anarchism, an anarchist-inspired political theory he has developed to explain contemporary forms of resistance to neoliberalism. This lecture will address the distinction between the revolutionary anarchism of the 19th and 20th centuries and contemporary post anarchist modes of insurrectionary politics.

booking required

Recurring event:
Thursday 12, Tuesday 17, Thursday 19, Friday 20 November

Multiple related events:
See Saturday 14 November in London
The Meaning of Science

Wellcome Collection
Thursday 12 November, 19:00–20:00
Wellcome Collection, London

What is science? Is it uniquely equipped to deliver universal truths? Or is it one of many disciplines – art, literature, religion – that offer different forms of understanding? And what role might philosophy have in our understanding of science? Join Tim Lewens, author of *The Meaning of Science* (Pelican Books), as he tackles big questions about reality and human nature.

book online from Friday 30 October: www.wellcomecollection.org/events

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Magic: from the Inquisition to Harry Potter

University of Exeter
Series: University of Exeter, Being human: Devon and Cornwall
Thursday 12 November, 19:00–20:30
Exeter Community Centre

Why are people fascinated by magic? Why do they do it and believe in it? And how far does our modern image of magic, in novels like the Harry Potter series, draw on the historical reality? This event will bring together a group of experts on magic in history and literature to debate these issues with questions and input from the audience. Drawing from an Exeter-based project on Sellem Bin al-Sheikh Mansur, a Muslim slave in 17th-century Malta, the event will, for the first time, tell a fascinating story about Sellem’s witchcraft trial by the Inquisition. The panel will bring together Ronald Hutton, an expert on magic in the 17th century and in modern Britain, with Marion Gibson, a literature expert and Dionisius Agius, the scholar who discovered Sellem’s case in the Maltese archives.

booking required

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Singing the past

University of Exeter
Series: University of Exeter, Being human: Devon and Cornwall
Thursday 12 November, 19:30–21:00, recurring at the same time, Friday 13 November (The Walronds, Cullompton) and Saturday 14 November (Exeter Guildhall)

Chapel of St. Clare at Livery Dole, Heavitree, Exeter

Songs and ballads form a unique connection between the past and the world in which we now live. Engagement with popular songs, whether by singing or listening, is an important part of life today, just as it was in the past, and music forms a central element in the cultural legacy we leave for future generations. Work and play, war and peace, love and loss, crime and punishment – all these aspects of human existence are preserved in the songs people sang as part of their daily lives. This event offers a musical exploration of songs from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Come and join us as we uncover the experiences of the men and women of the past!

booking required

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Recurring event:

Friday 13 November (The Walronds, Cullompton) & Saturday 14 November (Exeter Guildhall), 19:30–21:00
The Globe Road poetry festival

Queen Mary University of London
Friday 13 November – Sunday 15 November, check website for programme times

This is a three-day international event hosted by Queen Mary University of London highlighting the diverse poetic traditions active in London’s East End with a focus on the themes of translation and technology. Events include a Schools’ Day for schoolchildren with poetry workshops and public reading by Linton Kwesi Johnson, a Hack Day for practitioners, academics and students with a focus on technology, and a Translation Day including screenings, slams, discussions, and performances from big-name poets and popular collectives such as Daljit Nagra and the Shanghati Literary Society.

booking required

From animal tales to animal tags

The British Library
Friday 13 November, 10:30–16:00
Flickr or The British Library, London

This day-long, animal-themed tagathon event aims to use the British Library’s one million public domain images on Flickr to tag every image of domestic animals in the collection. From dogs to reptiles, fish to cats, we need your help to organise and curate the images in this amazing collection. The more you tag, the easier the collection will be to use for future researchers and enthusiasts. You are invited to participate in this event from your own home, or onsite at the British Library conference centre (Bronte Room).

booking required

The arcane and the archive

Senate House Library and Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Study, University of London

Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed
Friday 13 November, 12:00–18:00

This one-day symposium is a collaborative event between Senate House Library and The Warburg Institute. It will explore facets of the occult world by bringing together speakers and rarely exhibited materials from both libraries. The occult is other-worldly and mysterious, but human beings are innately curious and in this symposium we hope to reveal and unravel its secrets. Speakers will be discussing everything from angels and demons to dragons and witchcraft and will include Joanne Anderson (Warburg Institute), Karen Attar (Senate House Library), Roy Booth (Royal Holloway), Stephen Clucas (Birkbeck), Guido Giglioni (Warburg Institute), Aldo Miceli (Warburg Institute) and others.

booking required

Multiple related events:
see Saturday 14 November in London

booking required
The Hague Tribunal and the Balkan wars

University of East Anglia
Friday 13 November, 18:00–20:00

The Curve Auditorium, Norwich

The Hague Tribunal has become a vast ledger recording aspects of the wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s in minute detail. In some respects, this is the best recorded series of wars in history. Cathie Carmichael, professor of history at the University of East Anglia, will discuss what historians have learnt about the period, while the lawyers have attempted to establish who was responsible for what happened. The lecture will ask audience members to consider the usefulness and value of the court records as well as what they miss out. Professor Carmichael is the author and editor of several books on genocide, nationalism and European politics and has been an editor of the Journal of Genocide Research since 2008.
booking required

Drinking tea to escape the noise of the world

University of Portsmouth

Friday 13 November, 18:00–20:00

Gallery Art Space Portsmouth

The event starts at Gallery Art Space Portsmouth where artist/filmmaker and historian Patti Gaal-Holmes will present her ‘Tea Project’ exhibition exploring aspects of the personal, political and collective histories related to the tea trade and migration. This will be followed by a talk on tea trade and migration by Portsmouth’s own local tea merchant, Andrew Gadsden, with a tea reception in his award-winning tea factory, All About Tea.
booking required (50 places)

Senate House revealed: talking underground

School of Advanced Study, University of London (Institute of Modern Languages Research)

Friday 13 November, 18:30–20:30

Senate House Boiler Rooms, London

Charles Holden’s Senate House is best known as home to the WWII Ministry of Information and an inspiration behind George Orwell’s 1984. While many Londoners know its imposing form, few realise that beneath the building lies a network of switch rooms, utility tunnels, and hidden spaces. For one night only, join us in the building’s disused boiler rooms for an evening of talks on ‘urban exploration’. The discussion will feature urban explorer and academic Dr Bradley Garrett, alongside academics from the School of Advanced Study and other UK universities. Wrap up warm, bring a torch, and come ready to join the debate! Limited places. Booking essential.
booking required

Southern England listings

book online: beinghumanfestival.org
The Sewing Bee: ‘unpicking’ contemporary sewing cultures

University of Leicester
Friday 13 November, 18:30–21:30
Sew Over It Clapham
The revival of sewing in Britain provokes a number of questions: why, at a time when buying clothes has never been cheaper, are people choosing to take up sewing? Does it tap into a need to make and create instead of just consume? What personal politics might motivate people to sew? This exciting event will explore how humanities research can help answer these questions and consider the cultural significance of such movements. Participants will hear a short presentation from Dr Jessica Bain about her current research on the great British sewing revival. Then, the group will ‘stitch and bitch’ – reflecting on their memories, motivations and experiences of sewing.

booking required

Out of the woods? A fairy tale maze

University of London (Human Rights Consortium)

Friday 13 November, TBC

South Cloisters, Wilkins Building, UCL, London

In fairy tales, going into the woods is not something to be taken lightly. Whether you’re a sweet-toothed child stumbling upon a gingerbread house, or a prince hacking your way towards an enchanted castle, entering the woods takes you into a tangled, tempting, maze-like space, where you must depend on your wits in order to emerge alive. Out of the woods?, an interactive maze installation created by UCL’s Dr Elizabeth Dearnley and Liliana Ortega Garza, explores ways in which fairy tales have been used as teaching tools and morality guides over the centuries, inviting you to navigate your way through an immersive woodland environment. Come along and give the maze a try.

no booking required

Participatory documentary filmmaking for LGBTI activism

School of Advanced Study, University of London

Friday 13 November, TBC

Curzon Bloomsbury, London

This event will focus on the experiences of the Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights transnational project in its work with grassroots activists in participatory video film-making, to document the experiences and human rights struggles of LGBTI people. Beginning with a talk by project leader Professor Nancy Nicol on participatory video filmmaking, the event will also include the UK premiere of the project’s newest Uganda documentary, And Still We Rise, which focuses on the struggle against the Anti Homosexuality Act in Uganda. Afterwards, Professor Nicol will be joined by Richard Lusimbo of Sexual Minorities Uganda for a panel discussion.

booking required
Data bodies: you are my data symposium

London South Bank University
Saturday 14 November, 11:00–16:00
Watermans, London

Though social networks are at the heart of how we live, circulating knowledge and fostering innovation, they are also closely monitored, leading to hyper-centralised forms of surveillance. This symposium studies how people contribute to ‘a permanent capture of life into data’ through daily routines of surfing, shopping, and lifelogging. It will bring together artists, academics, technologists and users, to instigate public debate around issues of privacy in relation to big data capture, raise awareness regarding the scale and applications of those phenomena, propose ways of responding to loss of privacy, and consider avenues for resistance to the risks of self-quantification.

booking may be required

Theme park interactive game

University of Exeter
Series: University of Exeter, Being human: Devon and Cornwall
Saturday 14 November, 09:00–17:00
Exeter Library, Castle Street

While a theme park may be perceived by most people as simply a destination for a leisure trip, this event will use it as a medium to convey complex interdisciplinary research. Inspired by Exeter in Roman times, a theme park will be reproduced with hands-on activities, screenings, and installations corresponding to different sections of a theme park, from a roller coaster and photo opportunities to midway games. Visitors will go through the installations and are invited to reflect with theme park researchers on the relevance of what they experienced. Through a variety of theme park activities and structures, the event will highlight issues of temporality – from acceleration and slowing down to the necessity of understanding time as a commodity. All welcome.

no booking required

New Cross data tourists

Goldsmiths, University of London
Series: Goldsmiths, Radical New Cross: protest and dissent 1875–2015
Saturday 14 November, 11:00–12:30
St James Hatcham Building, New Cross, London

Join us for an interactive walking tour of New Cross. Participants will be given a device developed by the Goldsmiths Interaction Research Studio (Design) to try out on the streets and public spaces of New Cross. The 40-minute tour will begin at Goldsmiths’ St James Hatcham Building before heading back for a roundtable discussion. During these sessions Studio members will discuss the process and motivations behind the device, its development and the challenges and difficulties faced in making it.

booking required
Portsmouth sailortown walk

University of Portsmouth

Series: University of Portsmouth, Port city: narratives of migration

Saturday 14 November, 13:30–15:30

Meeting at Milldam Building, University of Portsmouth

Described as a ‘world of sordid pleasure, unlimited vice, and lashings of booze, but a dangerous place too’, sailortowns were places where sailors often lived, visited and were entertained. The walk will begin in Commercial Road, which had become the heart of sailortown in the early 20th century and end at Spice Island where sailors were entertained. The event will launch an interactive phone app of the walk and showcase the electronic mapping project developed by the Port Towns & Urban Cultures research group. Participants will be invited to contribute stories and information to be added to the interactive app.

booking required (26 places)

Aliens and agents: the house at 3 Regents Square

School of Advanced Study, University of London (Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies / Institute of Modern Languages Research)

Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed

Saturday 14 November, 14:00–15:30

Senate House, London

This talk will focus on the hidden history of this Bloomsbury house, a hive of activity for 1930s anti-fascist refugees attempting to expose the activities of the Nazi regime and a magnet for German informers and MI5 agents spying on them. Illustrated by archival material from the University of London’s Germanic Studies Archives, the talk will conclude with a short walking tour around some of the other Bloomsbury locations of importance for understanding the history of the 1930s refugees. If bad weather prevents us from doing a walking tour, participants will have an opportunity to view selected treasures from the exile archive collections, and to listen to some BBC German Service propaganda songs written and performed by Austrian exiles during WW2.

booking required

Black British civil rights: revealing the hidden story

Black Cultural Archives and The National Archives

Series: Black Cultural Archives and The National Archives

Saturday 14 & Saturday 21 November, 14:00–18:00

Black Cultural Archives (14 Nov) & The National Archives (21 Nov), both London

The National Archives and the Black Cultural Archives invites young people to explore two newly developed workshops around black civil rights in Britain. The events will use original documents and oral accounts to spark contemporary debates, particularly focusing on the differences between the American and British Black Civil rights movements. The second event at TNA will use their collection to explore campaign material around the controversial Mangrove 9 trials, using oral history to personalise the government perspective. Both events will combine an informal education workshop and debates with a creative workshop inspired by campaigning organisations. Both events are aimed at 18 to 25 year olds.

booking required (18 to 25 year olds)

Related events: workshops take place on Saturday 14 and Saturday 21 November
Defining digital Dickens: Dickens Journals Online

University of Buckingham
Series: University of Buckingham, Digital Dickens
Saturday 14 November, 14:30
The Radcliffe Centre, University of Buckingham

The opening event of a week of activities showcasing and assessing the impact of a range of international digital projects in Victorian and Dickens Studies, carried out out since the bicentenary of Dickens’s birth in 2012. The day includes a welcome event at the home of Dickens Journals Online and readings, both live and digital, from Dickens’s work, performed by staff and students of the university and local schools.

booking may be required

Science fictions from Latin America: a history in images

University of Cambridge and University of Oxford
Saturday 14 November, 19:00–21:00
The Horse Hospital, London

Science fiction has often been considered the province of North Atlantic imaginations; we seldom hear how the imagination of other worlds has developed in other cultures and heritages. This event brings attention to how science fiction began to take hold of the imaginations of artists in countries like Argentina, Brazil and Mexico from the 19th century to the present. Given sci-fi’s interesting interplay between word and image, four presenters – Dr Joanna Page (Cambridge), Dr María del Pilar Blanco (Oxford), Dr Ed King (Bristol) and Dr Carlos Fonseca (Cambridge) – will offer illustrated narrations of this history that describe both the development and diversity of different scientific imaginations across the ages. The presenters will address a variety of thematic areas, from popular education to politics and new technologies.

Related events:
see Tuesday 17 November (London), Thursday 19 November (University of Leicester), Saturday 21 November (London)

booking required

Little Eden

University of East Anglia
Series: University of East Anglia, Writing human rights
Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November, 19:30–21:00 (two performances)
Epic Studios, Norwich

Devised by Norwich’s Chalk Circle Theatre Company, this absurd musical takes a satirical look at nationalism. An alarmingly normal man is kicked out of the house by his wife. After hours of walking, tired and lost in the middle of nowhere, Adam needs a lift and a sofa for the night. An old school friend with a dark past arrives and they spend the night in the open dreaming up Little Eden, the best of all possible worlds where everything is for the best. Or is it?

booking required
The REACTion chamber

University of Exeter

Series: University of Exeter, Being human: Devon and Cornwall

Saturday 14 November, TBC

Spacex Gallery, Exeter

This event creates a space for the public to interact with researchers and projects dealing with knowledge exchange, cultural experimentation and the development of innovative digital technologies in the creative economy. REACT (Research & Enterprise in Arts & Creative Technology) has been funding collaborations between arts and humanities researchers and creative companies since 2012. Funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, it is one of four Knowledge Exchange Hubs for the Creative Economy. REACT is a collaboration between the University of the West of England, Watershed, and the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter. ‘The REACTion Chamber’ is produced by Exeter’s REACT team, in association with Kaleider.

booking may be required

LGBTI human rights activism film: no easy walk to freedom

School of Advanced Study, University of London (Human Rights Consortium)

Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed

Saturday 14 November, TBC

Curzon Bloomsbury, London

This event begins with a UK premiere screening of the documentary No easy walk to freedom, which tells the story of the struggle to strike down section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalises same-sex sexual behaviour in India. Following the screening, the film’s director Professor Nancy Nicol will be joined by Arvind Narrain, leading activist and lawyer for Voices Against 377.

booking required

Textile networks

Goldsmiths, University of London

Series: Goldsmiths, Radical New Cross: protest and dissent 1875–2015

Saturday 14 November, TBC

St James Hatcham Building, New Cross

This open workshop will bring together crafters, hackers and makers to collectively sew the definition of ‘data’ from the Embroidered digital commons project, a collective artwork initiated by artist Ele Carpenter to contribute to current debates on collective making in code, textiles and digital culture. As part of the workshop, designer Rose Sinclair will lead a discussion on Dorcas societies of the 1950–60s, which brought together Caribbean women through textiles and acted as networks for social and economic change. The untold oral stories of Dorcas society members will be told through an accompanying installation.

booking required

Related event:

See Glasgow, Sunday 15 November
People’s kitchen – Deptford town hall
Goldsmiths, University of London
Series: Goldsmiths, Radical New Cross: protest and dissent 1875–2015
Saturday 14 November, TBC
Deptford Town Hall Council Chamber, New Cross

For one evening only, Goldsmiths’ historic Deptford town hall will host a feast prepared and eaten by community groups, historians, academics and local people. Beyond just cooking and eating together, the event will help participants exchange ideas and forge connections. Each table will host a discussion on forms of ‘commoning’ led by experts from different walks of life. Subjects will range from education to social care, art, the economy and land use. All welcome.

booking required

Women’s Art library exhibition and BANK panel discussion
Goldsmiths, University of London
Series: Goldsmiths, Radical New Cross: protest and dissent 1875–2015
Saturday 14 November, TBC
310 New Cross Rd, Goldsmiths, University of London

This exhibition of original printmaking and debates with academics, practitioners and artists, responding to different aspects of the Goldsmiths Library Special Collections, is part of the Radical New Cross weekend of events exploring the area’s radical past and present. Printmaker and street artist Aida Wilde will join archivist and artist Ego Ahaiwe to produce a new poster inspired by a collection of hundreds of posters from the women’s movements of the 1970s and 80s. The wealth of material documenting the activity of the infamous New Cross BANK art collective, charting the organisation’s dissident journey through the boom of the 1990s London art scene, will be at the centre of discussions.

booking may be required

Data bodies: You are my data youth workshop
London South Bank University
Sunday 15 November, 11:00–13:00 (youth workshop) and 14:00–16:00 (privacy workshop)
Watermans, London

Young people are especially vulnerable to data ‘leakage’ and invested in the matter of digital privacy. Data collection and privacy is a growing global concern and something that this event will invite participants to explore. Two workshops will look at privacy issues in big data, including data gathering, mining, and exploitation, in an attempt to make such practices more transparent. Topics will range from data capture practices of apps like Foursquare and Fitbit to privacy-enhancing strategies and technologies. The workshops will also propose ways of responding to loss of privacy and how to protect your data.

booking required

Related event: see Saturday 14 November, 10:00
The battle of Lewisham: united against fascism
Goldsmiths, University of London
Series: Goldsmiths, Radical New Cross: protest and dissent 1875–2015
Sunday 15 November, TBC
St James Hatcham Building, Goldsmiths, University of London

On 13 August 1977, the National Front’s attempt to march from New Cross to Lewisham was halted by a patchwork of groups in solidarity against fascism and racism. This event will explore and debate the history and context of anti-racist and anti-fascist resistance and protest in and around Lewisham in the 20th century. From the 1936 Battle of Cable Street to the Battle of Lewisham 40 years later, key themes and events including first-hand accounts of radicalism and dissent in the area will be explored and documented. The afternoon concludes with a debate and discussion between academics, activists and everyday Londoners about the history and legacy of ‘radical’ Lewisham.

booking required

Are we human or are we cyborg?
University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Monday 16 November, 18:00
Peel Lecture Theatre, University Road, Bristol

In the ancient world, mythical monsters such as Centaurs and Amazons, Cyclops and centaurs, aided humans in thinking about big issues. They helped people to ask and answer questions about what it meant to be human, about kinship, community and identity. Incredibly, among these ancient mythical monsters we find cyborgs and robots very similar to those we meet in modern science fiction: Terminator-like bronze giants, golden robotic slaves and silver watchdogs. This interactive discussion and analysis of cyborg stories and images, both ancient and modern, will explore what they tell us about being human and will try to answer the question, ‘Are we human or are we cyborg?’

booking required

Remembering Gallipoli in New Zealand and beyond
School of Advanced Study, University of London (Institute of Historical Research)
Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed
Monday 16 November, 18:00
Senate House, London
Dr Jenny Macleod of the history department at the University of Hull will deliver the 2015 NZ-UK Link Foundation Annual Lecture on Remembering Gallipoli in New Zealand and beyond.

booking required
Breathing and breathlessness

University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Monday 16 November, 19:30
Light Studio, Arnolfini, Bristol

A panel of experts from the Wellcome Trust sponsored Life of Breath project will bring together a variety of perspectives on the seemingly straightforward act of breathing. The panel will include Professor Havi Carel, author of *Illness: The Art of Living*, Professor Gene Feder, a doctor with a particular interest in respiratory conditions and Dr Alice Malpass, a trained mindfulness-based cognitive therapy practitioner. The panel, chaired by the writer Julian Baggini, will also be joined by Rupert Gethin, who has practised Buddhist mindfulness of breathing for 30 years, and Kate Binnie, a yoga practitioner who works with patients in palliative care, pain and chronic conditions, and musicians managing breathlessness brought on by performance anxiety. The event will conclude with mindfulness of breathing practice led by Dr Alice Malpass.

booking required

Bristol historical walks

University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Monday 16 November – Friday 20 November, 13:00–14:00 (there will be a historical walk each day throughout the week)
Various starting points, Bristol

Join a Bristol historical walk each day from Monday 16 November to Friday 20 November. These walks will highlight Cabot’s Bristol with Dr Evan Jones, Bristol and the Slave Trade with Dr Richard Stone, Civil War Bristol with Professor Ronald Hutton, Bristol in the age of Enlightenment and Revolution 1750–1832 with Dr Richard Sheldon and Bristol’s Medical History with Dr Victoria Bates.

booking required

Humanising music technology

Kingston University
Monday 16 November, 14:00–20:30
JW3, London

This event focuses on the role of technology in our engagement with music and the intricate relationship between technology and creativity. The event will cover a broad range of approaches ranging from art music to the fan-based Chiptunes phenomena. Participants will also have the opportunity to make music using a ‘hackable’ electronic instrument.

booking required
Why burn books?

University of East Anglia
Series: University of East Anglia, Writing human rights
Monday 16 November, 18:00–20:00
Friends Meeting House, Norwich

Human rights are now an established, if hotly contested, part of how we define our relations with one another. But human rights legislators, lawyers and activists know that the development of law alone does not change beliefs and behaviour. In her recent writing, Professor Lyndsey Stonebridge has explored how cultural and historical structures of feeling have been vital to the progressive development of rights in the modern period. In this talk, Professor Stonebridge will argue that writing tells us something important about rights. At a time when both the European rights project and the value of the humanities are under more pressure than ever before, she will make the case for a critical commitment to the progressive potential of both writing and ‘righting’.

booking required

Ignite your mind: research at the pub

University of Bath
Monday 16 November, 19:00–21:30
Ring O Bells, Bath

This one-night event brings together University of Bath PhD researchers and the local community at the pub to celebrate being human. Speakers will enlighten the audience with fascinating overviews of their research, but they must do so in just five minutes using 20 slides which auto-advance every 15 seconds. Topics covered will range from psychology, health and politics to social policy, education, and economics. Come along to gain some ‘pub ammunition’ – interesting facts and knowledge you can use to impress your fellow pub-goers during future gatherings.

booking required

Brithop: regional rap in postcolonial Britain

University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Monday 16 November, 20:00–21:30
Rise record shop, Bristol

With debates on Scottish independence, immigration, Britain’s place in the EU, and the spectre of a past Empire complicating the notion of ‘Britishness’ as ethnically defined, the Kingdom seems far from united. Hip-hop, as a global art form that also celebrates region and locality, has become a space in which to debate and discuss a range of these issues, including tradition, history and belonging. And there’s some humour, too! This talk, by music lecturer and hip-hop scholar Justin Williams, aims to survey hip-hop in postcolonial Britain with numerous examples to explore the state of the United Kingdom through some of its most artistically articulate voices.

booking required
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I stood up for (bio) diversity</td>
<td>Centre for Sustainable Fashion, University of the Arts London</td>
<td>Monday 16 November, TBC</td>
<td>This public installation of imagery and fashion artefacts will encapsulate London’s (bio) diversity with opportunities for active public participation. Held at East London Market in East London, members of the public will be able to interact with and become part of this installation while joining in an open dialogue about fashion’s contribution to a balanced city metabolism. This event forms part of Habit(AT), an action research project, which has collected concerns of Londoners through a material based exploration entitled ‘I stood up to violence against nature’, where wildlife and biodiversity featured in the top five concerns. Booking may be required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bringing the world to King Lear</td>
<td>University of Warwick</td>
<td>Monday 16 November, 18:00–20:00</td>
<td>In June 2015, director Tim Supple of Dash Arts brought a group of celebrated actors to the University of Warwick, for a two week long series of workshops exploring the text of King Lear in multiple languages, and through a variety of acting traditions. The group came from Tanzania, India, Italy, Belgium, South Korea, USA, Morocco, Ireland and Russia as well as the UK. This event will begin with a panel presentation, chaired by David Schalkwyk of Global Shakespeare, with Tim Supple and other workshop participants as speakers. It will also include a screening of workshop video footage and Q&amp;A with the audience afterwards. All are welcome. Booking required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What do we owe climate change refugees?</td>
<td>University of Bristol</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 November, 12:30–14:00</td>
<td>Professor Chris Bertram and Dr Megan Blomfield (philosophy, University of Bristol) talk about the ethics of what we owe to people who are displaced from their home countries by the effects of climate change. Followed by an open discussion, this event links questions about justice in migration with ones about the environment and historic injustice. Booking required.</td>
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Being Human: voices in the Wiener Library archives

The Wiener Library
Tuesday 17 November, 13:00–14:00
The Wiener Library, London

The Wiener Library is Britain’s largest specialist collection related to the Holocaust and genocide, and it is the oldest institution of its type anywhere in the world. On this tour you will be given the chance to hear donors of material to the Wiener Library collections talk about their own stories. You will be given the chance to explore our remarkable archives, guided by the voices of the people who have helped us to grow them. Admission is free but booking is essential as space is limited.

booking required

Male body terrors

Senate House Library
Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed
Tuesday 17 November, 13:00–14:00
Senate House Library, London

The heroic male body and associated ideals of masculinity has been challenged in recent years by the body of the male terrorist. However, this lecture by Dr Gabriel Koureas (Birkbeck, University of London) will argue that this recent phenomenon of male body terror can be found in other instances. One example to be discussed is Robert Maplethorpe’s photographic work and his depiction of gay male sexual encounters which provided a challenge at the time to perceived ideas of masculinity. The talk will attempt to juxtapose the male body of the terrorist and gay man in order to discuss transgressions of masculinities.

booking required

David Catalunya recital of pre-Renaissance music

University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Tuesday 17 November, 16:30
Recital Room, Victoria Rooms, Bristol

David Catalunya’s research on musical instrument history, and his exploration of performance techniques specific to late-medieval keyboard instruments, have placed him as a leading artist in the field of pre-Renaissance music. The hammered clavimbalum is his most recent and innovative project, carried out in collaboration with Paul Poletti. The result is formidably expressive. This ‘mechanised psaltery’, as the historical sources describe it, has a brilliant and powerful sound and allows the performer to deal with the most virtuoso music of the period. David Catalunya will perform a short concert on this unique instrument, and discuss the research that brought it into being.

booking required
Engaging with the past: migration memories

University of Portsmouth
Series: University of Portsmouth, Port city: narratives of migration
Tuesday 17 November, 17:30–19:30
Somerstown community centre, Portsmouth

‘Engaging with the past’ is a monthly cultural heritage and public history reading group organised by Dr Jessica Moody. The group will host a special guest lecture by Eithne Nightingale (Queen Mary University London) on her research into ‘migration museums’ in port towns. After a Q&A session, attendees will ‘migrate’ across to The Kings Street Tavern for a reading and discussion group on the theme of ‘migration museums’.

no booking required (30 places)

Poetry and co-dependency: the poetry of Sylvia Plath

Gresham College
Tuesday 17 November, 18:00–19:00
Museum of London, London

Readers have been exploring Sylvia Plath’s work for half a century, but is there anything new to be said? The publication of her complete journals, the release of personal papers and those of her estranged husband, Ted Hughes, provides material for persuasive research about their shared creative processes. In this free public lecture, Professor Belinda Jack will explore to what extent we should be influenced by the creative co-dependency of Sylvia Plath’s poetic relationship with Ted Hughes and his poetry.

no booking required

Defining digital Dickens: dissecting Drood

University of Buckingham
Series: University of Buckingham, Digital Dickens
Tuesday 17 November, TBC
Charles Dickens Museum, London

This workshop engages participants in a range of projects led by Dr Pete Orford of the University of Buckingham, all exploring the ramifications of Dickens’s last unfinished novel, The Mystery of Edwin Drood. These include a reading group and international blog developed from a re-release online of facsimiles of the original monthly instalments, a crowd-sourced whodunnit inquiry into which character the public at large believe committed the murder, and an exhibition based on the novel at the Charles Dickens Museum. The workshop will bring participants together in these strands in a structured discussion open to the public.

booking may be required

Related events:
See Saturday 14 November (University of Buckingham), Thursday 19 November (University of Leicester), Saturday 21 November (London)
Film event for people with dementia, their families and carers

Roehampton University
Tuesday 17 November, TBC
Barnet Odeon, London

Dementia affects our community, not only the person with the disease. These six cinema screenings are aimed at those affected by dementia, their carers and families, giving them an opportunity to come together and simply enjoy watching films. Each screening session will include a discussion panel which involves a clinician, an academic involved in either neuroscience, therapy or the arts, a person affected by dementia, a carer and an artist (performers, filmmakers). These events will also provide an opportunity for participants to tell their story through a range of mediums including video blogs and interviews. Programme supported by Film Hub London, managed by Film London. Proud to be a partner of the BFI Film Audience Network, funded by the National Lottery www.filmlondon.org.uk/filmbhub.

booking required

A historical walk through brilliant Bloomsbury

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Centre for History in Public Health, University of London
Wednesday 18 November, 12:45–14:15
Wellcome Collection, London

This guided history walk is led by Blue Badge guide, public health consultant, and LSHTM alumna Dr Ros Stanwell-Smith. It leads visitors through local institutions, squares and backstreets to uncover anecdotes and stories about the eminent scientists, physicians and cultural figures who lived and worked in the area – such as Jeremy Bentham, Charles Darwin, Virginia Woolf and Sir Hans Sloane – and the surprising connections, scandals and sources of inspiration that they found in this remarkably brainy and often controversial part of London.

booking required

Hate speech

University of East Anglia
Series: University of East Anglia, Writing human rights
Wednesday 18 November, 13:00–20:00
The Curve Auditorium, Norwich

As part of the ‘Writing human rights’ series of events, Dr Alex Brown will share his expertise on the law and philosophy of hate speech.

booking required

To book online and for up-to-date time, venue and access information, and even more events, visit: beinghumanfestival.org | @BeingHuman15
Unlocking the archive: politics & public culture

University of East Anglia
Series: University of East Anglia, Unlocking the archive
Wednesday 18 November, 16:00–18:00
Norfolk Record Office, Norwich

At this workshop, Dr Hugh Doherty and Dr John Alban will be exploring what the Norfolk archives can tell attendees about Norwich's role within two enormously significant historical, political and public events that are commemorated this year: the Magna Carta (1215) and the battle of Agincourt (1415).

Built around physically present documents, the workshop will allow the audience to engage directly with the document by asking key questions such as how do we start to read a difficult document? And conceptually, how do we ask questions of an archival document?

no booking required

War in other words project fair/showcase

University of Exeter
Series: University of Exeter, Being human: Devon and Cornwall
Wednesday 18 November, 16:00–19:00
Queen's Building Senior Common Room, Exeter

This project showcase will focus on the First World War and will include an introduction to the project’s website, presentation of collected stories and hands-on activities involving translations and recordings. Researchers will also be aiming to establish further collaborations, encouraging the public to share any First World War stories they might be aware of. The showcase will be flexible and informal, bringing together members of the public and university staff and students.

no booking required

Buddhism, mindfulness and being human

University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Wednesday 18 November, 17:00–18:30
Dark studio, Arnolfini, Bristol

The last 30 years have seen enormous growth in mindfulness-based therapies derived from Buddhist meditation techniques. In January 2015 the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Mindfulness in the UK published an interim report with recommendations in the areas of health, education, the workplace and the criminal justice system. A panel will discuss whether modern secular techniques of mindfulness, free mindfulness from the burden of its outmoded Buddhist cultural baggage, or deprive it of the essential humanising vision that should be at its core.

booking required

Related events:
See Saturday 14 November (University of Buckingham), Thursday 19 November (University of Leicester), Saturday 21 November (London)
The Oxford dodo: culture at the crossroads
TORCH | The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities
Wednesday 18 November, 17:30–19:00
Oxford University Museum of Natural History

This series of events celebrates the life and legacy of the dodo, as well as providing a rare opportunity to view the world's best preserved dodo remains. During the day a children's workshop at the Story Museum will explore the idea of 'unextinction'. It will be led by celebrated author Jasper Fforde, whose much-loved Thursday Next series features a pet dodo. A panel discussion at 17:30 at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History will bring together Paul Smith (director, Oxford University Museum of Natural History), Pietro Corsi (historian of science), Jasper Fforde (author), Paul Jepson (environmental researcher) and Kirsten Shepherd-Barr (literary scholar) to examine the cultural significance of the dodo across time.

no booking required

Envy of kings: Guildhall London and the medieval corporation
Gresham College
Wednesday 18 November, 18:00–19:00
Museum of London, London

The government of the City of London is older than parliament itself and its Guildhall, one of London's most historically interesting buildings, is a rival to the Palace of Westminster. This makes the Lord Mayor a king in his own palace; but how has this been expressed in architecture? Dr Simon Thurley, a leading architectural historian and former chief executive of English Heritage, delivers a free public lecture looking at the architectural patronage of the City's Lord Mayors from earliest time to the present.

no booking required

A Buddhist cosmology in food
University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Wednesday 18 November, 18:30–20:00
Dark studio, Arnolfini, Bristol

While Buddhism is often associated with philosophy, meditation and monks, this series of short documentaries looks at the world through the eyes of the food makers. In practice many Buddhists in South and Southeast Asia rarely engage in philosophical speculations or formal meditation and are likely to consult other religious specialists beyond monks. For example, Buddhists in Sri Lanka have a whole cosmos of visible and invisible beings to deal with and most of their interactions are negotiated with food. This event highlights this practice from a food maker’s perspective. Film starts at 19:00.

booking required
Being at sea

University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Wednesday 18 November, 18:00
The Orangery, Goldney Hall, University of Bristol

This event will highlight work from the ‘Perspective from the sea’ research cluster within the faculty of arts through a series of short talks on how the experience of being at sea is imagined in literature. Drawing from the passenger diaries and documents held in the archives at the Bristol Record Office and the SS Great Britain, the talks will discuss both the physical and the more philosophical implications of being ‘at sea’.

no booking required

Counter-terrorism, citizenship and human rights in the UK

University of East Anglia
Series: University of East Anglia, Writing human rights
Wednesday 18 November, 18:00–20:00
Norwich Quaker Meeting House

As part of the ‘Writing human rights’ series of events, Dr Lee Jarvis, a senior lecturer in international security at the University of East Anglia and a member of UEA’s critical global politics research group, will explore how different people across the United Kingdom experience or perceive the impact of counter-terrorism powers. This talk will argue that many – although not all – UK citizens believe that their citizenship has been adversely affected by contemporary changes in these powers, and that these experiences have implications for rights as well as for political participation and feelings of belonging.

no booking required

Being writers: a collaborative conversation

London Arts and Humanities Partnership
Wednesday 18 November, 18:00–20:00
Enitharmon Gallery and Bookshop, London

What common ground does creative writing share with academic writing? To answer this question, this collaborative conversation brings together the director of Enitharmon Press, Stephen Stuart-Smith, two Enitharmon authors, Nancy Campbell (artist and writer) and Hilary Davies (poet, translator and critic), and LAHP postgraduate research students. Hosted in the iconic Enitharmon Gallery and Bookshop in Bloomsbury, this event looks at intersections between creative practice, literary publishing and academic research.

booking required
The world at war: revealing a hidden history

School of Advanced Study, University of London (Institute of Historical Research)

Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed

Wednesday 18 November, 18:00–20:00

Wolfson Conference Suite, Institute of Historical Research, London

This lecture on the famous 26-part ITV series of the 1970s, *The World at War*, will be followed by the screening of the episode *Genocide* from that series on the history of the Holocaust. The lecturer, Taylor Downing, is a writer and an award-winning television producer. He writes about film and television and has written a BFI TV Classic on the series and a Film Classic on Leni Riefenstahl’s *Olympia*. He’s also written *Churchill’s War Lab*, *Spies in the Sky* and *Secret Warriors*.

booking required

Gender and mental health: what can history teach us?

Palgrave Macmillan

Wednesday 18 November, 18:30–20:00

The Stables, London

Eminent psychiatrists and historians will gather to discuss gender and mental health, from self-harm to alcoholism, suicide, mental health at work and pharmacological solutions, all from a humanitarian perspective. The panel discussion will include an array of subject areas including history, gender studies and public policy. There will be a drinks reception after the event.

booking required

Reviving the crescent: Portsmouth connects with Asia

University of Portsmouth

Series: University of Portsmouth, Port city: narratives of migration

Wednesday 18 November, 18:30–20:30

Faculty of Cultural and Creative Industries, Eldon Building, Portsmouth

Portsmouth is often mistaken for being a monocultural, jingoistic and reactionary city. Presenting a very different narrative, creative and cultural industries lecturer Tom Sykes will discuss Portsmouth’s role as a global city with close cultural and literary connections to Asia. After the lecture, British-Asian writers will read from their work about their experience of migration, integration and cultural encounter. Writers include Sarah Cheverton (Portsmouth born and bred, but travelled extensively in Asia), Avie Olarte (Filipino writer based in Manila but reflecting on Portsmouth via Skype), Mustafi Rahman (Bangladeshi writer based in Portsmouth) and Sudip Sen (Indian-Australian who now lives in Portsmouth).

booking required (100 places)
Café culture: sexuality

UCL
Wednesday 18 November, 19:00–21:00
Roberts Foyer, Engineering Building, UCL, London

‘Sexuality’ might seem a term which can be taken for granted. Yet much recent thinking around sexuality has been keen to develop inquiry into the extent to which the term, its history, representation and lived experience is fluid and subject to change over time and across different socio-political contexts. In this session of café culture, arts and humanities researchers from UCL will introduce aspects of their work on sexuality and facilitate discussion of the topic. The session will pay particular attention to the interactions between sexuality and place/space, focusing on the specific context of Soho in London and the experience of gay men within the ‘scene’, as well as the ways sexuality is represented in literature, film and television.

booking required

Royalty, writing and religion: Exeter in the age of Poldark

University of Exeter
Series: University of Exeter, Being human: Devon and Cornwall
Wednesday 18 November, TBC
Exeter Cathedral, Chapter House

Held in the majestic Exeter Cathedral, this event will look at life in the late 18th century, the time made popular by the TV show Poldark. Attendees will get a taste of the past through a pair of engaging talks delivered by members of the university’s English department and a historical recreation of a sermon delivered in costume. Immerse yourself in the spectacle of King George III’s visit, when the French Revolution threatened Britain’s monarchy. Discover the scholars and scoundrels who wrote and published books during that time. Experience what city folk would have heard in church each Sunday in the atmospheric setting of the Cathedral. The event includes wine, light refreshments and a walking tour booklet.

booking required

Film, art and the third culture

School of Arts, University of Kent
Wednesday 18 November, TBC
Jarman Studio 2, University of Kent

Murray Smith, professor of film at the University of Kent, will deliver the Beacon Institute for Art and Science Annual Lecture. Drawing on his forthcoming book and with a nod towards C.P Snow, Professor Smith will discuss the prospects for a ‘third culture’, integrating the knowledge, goals and methods of the arts and sciences. Taking film as his primary example, he will explore the ways in which various aspects of film and film viewing can be illuminated scientifically. Professor Smith will also discuss the pitfalls of dialogue between researchers in the humanities and the sciences, stressing the necessity of two-way traffic in any such exchange.

booking required
Snapshots: does every picture tell a story?

University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Wednesday 18 November, TBC
Venue TBC, Bristol

This two-part event invites audience members to bring a snapshot they can use as a prop to help them think about the historical value of family photographs and amateur photography. In the first half, four historians will briefly discuss a single photograph, sequence of images or album and the stories that these snapshots might tell. The second half allows the audience to talk about their photographs by considering questions such as: How might a future historian read these? Do you agree with that interpretation? What do historians do with photographs – and can they go too far?

booking required

Immersive cinema

University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Thursday 19 November, 13:00
Dark Studio, Arnolfini, Bristol

This event provides a personalised cinematic journey for everyone. Two short films – Ours and The Soft Side of Heavy – create an atmospheric world where audiences can walk around the space, touch, smell, drink and recreate their perceived cinematic world. Audiences will walk into an anonymous, empty place where they’ll see the traces of time on the floor, on the wall and on the virtual images hanging in the air. Stained wine glasses, burnt candles, and unfinished fizzy drinks – everything a clue of something that has happened. As the films unfold, audiences are taken into the past of this place. A young couple, a father and a son, they claim their own occupation of the place through their stories as audiences make discoveries along the way.

booking required

Why languages matter

University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Thursday 19 November, 13:00–14:00
Orangery, Goldney Hall

This talk examines the relevance of the study of languages and cultures in a world increasingly defined by the pace of globalisation. Researchers and students will give a series of short presentations on why languages matter and what the study of other languages and cultures tells us about the experience of being human. Topics will include how languages and cultures operate and interact, translation’s relevance from Google Translate to the apps we use on holiday, and how understanding other cultures help us understand ourselves.

booking required
Gillray’s ghost

University of Kent
Series: University of Kent, Cartoonation
Thursday 19 November, 17:30–18:30
The House of Illustration, London

Martin Rowson, the distinguished British cartoonist, author, satirist and ‘visual journalist’, will be in conversation with historian of satire Dr Paddy Bullard, talking about the impact of graphic satire on British politics, and his own debts to the tradition of the 18th-century graphic artists Rowlandson and Gillray. The event coordinates informally with the ‘Gillray’s Ghost’ exhibition at London’s Cartoon Museum, near the British Museum, just around the corner from where the caricaturist George Cruickshank was born.

booking may be required

Visualising data: aesthetics and analysis

Senate House Library
Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed
Thursday 19 November, 18:00–19:00

Humankind is generating data about itself at an exponentiating rate, rapidly shedding its digital skin wherever it goes. Traditional statistics and computer science struggle to cope with this society-sized ‘Big Data’ – but luckily, we all have access to one of the fastest pattern-recognition tools ever created, and it sits behind our eyes. Dr Martin Zaltz Austwick, lecturer in data visualisation at the Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis in University College London, will reveal the analytical power and aesthetic beauty of data visualisation, revealing the ways in which the human becomes the virtual, and the virtual becomes the visual – and the physical. This lecture is part of the Illumination Series.

booking required

Creative acoustics

Anglia Ruskin University
Thursday 19 November, 18:00–20:00, Friday 20 November, 18.00–20.00, Saturday 21 November, 11.00–13.00, 15.00–17.00, 17.00–19.00
Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge

This workshop explores the creative potential of combining audio recording techniques with acoustic surveys of heritage sites and applying them to film, television and music productions. Part 1 will introduce the basics of building acoustics and its effects on speech and music. Part 2 will involve participants conducting their own voice recordings in a studio. In Part 3, the audio recordings will be combined with the acoustic characteristics of famous heritage sites to explore their effects on speech and music as well as their application to creative pieces.

booking required (8 places per workshop)

Recurring event:
workshops will also be offered on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 November
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<td>The humanity of lawyers</td>
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**Southern England listings**
book online: beinghumanfestival.org

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**African connections: moving people – perspectives on Bristol, slavery and migration**

**University of Bristol**  
**Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts**  
**Thursday 19 November, 18:30**  
**Malcolm X Centre, Bristol**

To many, the history of Bristol is a history of slavery. For others, the debate turns on misrepresentations of a complex past. Positions are entrenched, rehearsed and re-examined, divided by race, by class and by generation. This panel debate and public discussion will highlight what these debates about slavery might mean for migrant communities in Bristol today, and how the interwoven legacies of slavery, colonialism and migration might lend context to current issues affecting Bristol. How does this history mould contemporary connections with Africa? What might the afterlives of imperialism tell us about engagement and activism with Bristol’s BME communities today? How do the overlapping waves of migration into the city shape its current landscape?

**booking required**

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**Being human/beeing animal**

**King’s College London**  
**Thursday 19 November, 18:30–20:30**  
**Hunterian Museum, London**

Using the specimens and objects from the collections of the Hunterian Museum, this event will highlight what animals have taught us about ‘being human’ in the histories of health and medicine. The event will explore the roles of animals in modern biomedical and biological research, the methods used to study them, and the broader social contexts of this work. Historians from King’s College London and the Royal College of Surgeons will be located around the museum to talk about their research, using animal specimens and displays to cover a variety of topics, from parasites to tuberculosis and cancer, to Ming the celebrity panda.

**booking required**

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**Humans and their non-humans**

**The British Library**  
**Thursday 19 November, 18:30–21:00**  
**Staff Restaurant, The British Library, London**

Human-pet relationships are a complex part of social life; pets can be ‘part of the family’ as well as signify wealth or status. The intensity of the human-pet relationship can shape our social identity and enable our mobility. This panel will look at the curious relationship people have with pets. Why do humans have pets? How has this changed over time? What is the psychological impact for humans and their non-humans? Are human-pet relations mutually beneficial? The event will include an introduction to the British Library and will be followed by a pay-bar until 21:00.

**booking required (fee applicable, places limited)**

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**Southern England listings**
book online: beinghumanfestival.org
**Southern England listings**

**Modern folk: traditional culture and community in the south west**

**University of Exeter**

Series: University of Exeter, Being human: Devon and Cornwall

**Thursday 19 November, 19:00**

**Helston Museum, Helston**

This all-day event held at the Helston Museum in Cornwall will look at the ways in which songs, practices, and beliefs from the past still inform modern life. While Dr Jim Kelly, Professors Nick Groom and Marion Gibson, and Dr Rob Smith from the University of Exeter’s Penryn Campus give talks ranging from modern views of witchcraft, contemporary versions of traditional ballads, forgotten rural customs, and gothic versions of folk beliefs, music will be provided by acclaimed folk singer Jim Causley, based on the modern ballads of the Cornish poet Charles Causley.

booking required

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**Cringe @ Mass Observation**

**Mass Observation Archive**

**Thursday 19 November, 19:30–22:00**

**The Latest Music Bar, Brighton**

Traditionally seen as the place to confide unrequited love, or angst ridden exam stresses, the pages of teenage diaries can be a source of cringe-worthy memories. But even the most whimsical thoughts can be a valuable way of charting the changing social, cultural and emotional history of everyday life for young people in Britain. The Mass Observation Archive joins Cringe UK, and researchers from the University of Sussex for an evening of readings from young people’s diaries ranging from the 1940s to present day, alongside audience participants reading from their own teenage diaries, demonstrating how today’s cringe becomes tomorrow’s history.

booking required

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**Poetry in public places: Bristol**

**University of the West of England, Bristol**

Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts

**Thursday 19 November, TBC**

**UWE Arnolfini, Bristol**

Poetry in public places: Bristol is a partnership between the department of arts and cultural industries at UWE, and Poetry Can - the Bristol-based charity which aims to encourage as many people as possible to get involved in poetry activity. The project enables both participants and people in a range of everyday situations to experience poetry in new and accessible ways. In the month preceding the festival, poets and academics will work with participants to speak poems in the kinds of public places in which the participants live, work, study and play. This event will be the culminating celebration of the project and all are welcome to attend.

no booking required
Lucy’s secret: digital neo-Victorian train adventure

International Centre for Victorian Women Writers, Canterbury Christ Church University
Friday 20 November, 10:00–15:00
City of Westminster Archives Centre, London

A fully interactive digital adventure, this event invites amateur sleuths to investigate a mystery. The story begins in 1862 when Lucy disappears after buying a ticket at the newly opened Victoria Station. Fifty years later a young woman in Victorian dress appears in Margate. But this time travelling anomaly has no idea where she has been for the last 50 years. Attendees will be provided with clue cards to help them solve the mystery. The event includes a talk from Judith Flanders, author of *The Victorian House*, *The Victorian City* and *The Invention of Murder*, and a workshop on exploring archives by historian Dr Martin Watts.

booking required

Unlocking the archive: the feast day of St Edmund

University of East Anglia
Series: University of East Anglia, Unlocking the archive
Friday 20 November, 14:00–16:00
Norwich Cathedral Library

Organised by UEA’s School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing this workshop, which takes place on the feast day of the East Anglian patron Saint Edmund, examines how central a region’s religious culture is to its sense of identity. Dr Rebecca Pinner (UEA, LDC), an expert in the East Anglian cult of St Edmund, will show how the textual cult was interpreted visually, and how we can find those interpretations depicted around the Cathedral cloister. This prompts the further question of just what constitutes a document – must it be something written?

no booking required

Doing satire cartoon workshop

University of Kent
Series: University of Kent, Cartoon nation
Friday 20 November, 14:00–17:00
Beaney House of Knowledge and Art, Canterbury

A workshop designed to give a group of 15 to 19-year-olds access to Kent University’s British cartoon archive. Over the course of an afternoon of talks, discussion and practice, visitors have the opportunity to make their own satirical cartoons using montage editing techniques. The event comprises: an introduction to the British cartoon archive; a brief history of how cartoonists create new satire using recycled images; a discussion workshop where participants brainstorm the comedic side of recent news stories, and a creative workshop where visitors make their own visual lampoons using montage editing techniques.

see website for booking details

Related events:
See Wednesday 18 November 16:00, Saturday 21 November 11:00
From platonic love to internet pornography

**University of Sussex**
Friday 20 November,
18:00–19:30
Fulton Lecture Theatre A,
University of Sussex, Brighton

The event will consist of a short film and discussion, exploring the question: What is the role of sexuality in our contemporary world? Specifically, how does modern technology influence being human and especially our human relationships? The perspective of the humanities is called for to approach sexuality as a holistic phenomenon. While the medical sciences have established that internet pornography is problematic, with the potential to affect sexual performance in the short and long term, they fail to fully explain why.

No booking required

The sanctuary of stories: losing homes, finding words

**University of East Anglia**
Friday 20 November,
18:00–20:00
The Curve, The Forum,
Norwich

Professor Dame Marina Warner, academic and writer of fiction, criticism and history, will be talking about the important role literature can play in the lives of displaced and exiled peoples, as part of the ‘Writing human rights’ series of events. Professor Warner’s works include novels, short stories and studies of art, myths, fairytales and symbols. In 2015 she was made a dame for services to higher education and literary scholarship as well as winning the prestigious Holberg Prize.

Booking required

Consider smell: London

**University of Nottingham**
Saturday 21 November,
10:00–16:30
Royal College of Art, London

At this day-long workshop, participants will smell through human evolution and explore the unique London odourscape. From the science of smells to the effects of odours on food perceptions, the workshop will explore all aspects of smelling and include a Smellwalk of Kensington. Documentation of these distinct geographical and temporal olfactory perceptions will be exhibited as part of a public exhibition at the RCA.

Booking required
Revealing local history

Victoria County History, Institute of Historical Research and Senate House Libraries | Gloucestershire Victoria County History

Series: School of Advanced Study, Hidden and revealed

Saturday 21 November, 10:00–16:00

This Wikipedia edit-a-thon allows those taking part to create and enhance local history Wikipedia articles using Victoria County History (VCH) and British History Online (BHO) materials. Using these texts as source material for Wikipedia articles continues the revelation process that begins by bringing archival material to print with the red books and then into digital format on BHO. Training will be provided on the day. The same event will be held in three locations: Leicester, Gloucester and London. Participants at the Gloucester event should bring their own laptops.

booking required

Archaeology in action

University of Bristol

Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts

Saturday 21 November, 10:00–16:45

M Shed museum, Bristol

This one-day event explores research and discoveries made by archaeologists in Bristol. Speakers from Bristol Museums and the University of Bristol will present their latest projects and share their experiences of archaeology in action. Topics include the role of the modern museum curator, the work of the commercial field archaeologist, the use of drones in archaeology, the realities of conducting fieldwork in the Mediterranean, how scientific analyses are changing our understanding of what and how people ate in the past, and much more. Jointly organised by Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives.

booking required

Unlocking the archives: Norwich’s Renaissance books

University of East Anglia

Series: University of East Anglia, Unlocking the archive

Saturday 21 November, 10:00–16:00 and Sunday 22 November, 11:00-15:00

The Forum, Norwich

Come and join us for a weekend of events to celebrate one of Norwich’s greatest treasures: its extraordinary collection of Renaissance books. Drop in to the Norfolk Heritage Centre (upstairs in the Forum) any time on Saturday to join our experts in relaxed hands-on discovery sessions, where we’ll be looking closely at some of the earliest books printed in Europe, the first books printed in Tudor Norwich (in Dutch!), and books filled with magnificent illustrations or the notes of their earliest readers. On Sunday, join us in the Forum atrium for fun learning activities aimed at the whole family, as we show how Norwich’s Renaissance library can be a place of excitement and discovery for visitors of all ages.

no booking required

Related events:
see Wednesday 18 November, Friday 20 November
Exploring Walter Besant’s ‘By Celia’s Arbour’

University of Portsmouth
Series: University of Portsmouth, Port city: narratives of migration
Saturday 21 November, 11:30–16:00
Milldam Building, Portsmouth

*By Celia’s Arbour: A Tale of Portsmouth Town* was first published in 1878, by Walter Besant who was born in Portsmouth and founded the Society of Authors. The novel revolves around a retired sea captain, who lives by the mill dam, and takes in two orphaned boys. A creative writing workshop led by Dr Alison Habens will take place in Milldam Building, where the novel is set, and will end with a guided walk. Afterwards, the book’s context and literary merits will be explored in a panel discussion by Dr Charlotte Boyce, Dr Páraic Finnerty, Dr Mark Frost, Dr Christopher Pittard and Dr Patricia Pulham from the Centre for Studies in Literature.

booking required

Digital Dartmoor: moor stories

University of Exeter
Series: University of Exeter, Being human: Devon and Cornwall
Saturday 21 November, 13:30–17:30
Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter

‘Moor stories’ is for the curious museum and moor visitor, writers, history buffs, walkers, nature lovers, schools and tourists. This event is a practical workshop facilitated by museum and university staff, which includes a visit to the museum and Dartmoor, where attendees can tell their moor story with photos, text or video. Transport is provided but please do bring money for a cafe stop on Dartmoor. An adult must accompany children under 16 years of age. Come along and experience the museum and moor then tell your story with ‘Moor stories’.

booking required

Entering the ancient world through silent cinema

University College London
Saturday 21 November, 14:00–18:00
The Cinema Museum, London

This event invites audiences to enter the ancient world through rarely seen, aesthetically rich, and immersive silent films set in ancient Greece or Rome. Through their enticing use of gesture and look, exotic sets and extravagant costumes, colour, music and movement, these films still offer spectators the opportunity to enter into history and experience a distant past where life is lived differently or to an extreme. Introduced by Professor Maria Wyke and Dr Pantelis Michelakis, whose research investigates the representation of antiquity in silent cinema, a professional pianist (Stephen Horne) will improvise throughout.

no booking required
African connections:
Fanon in Bristol film screening and discussion

University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Saturday 21 November, 15:00–19:00
Watershed Cinema, Bristol

Fanon, a forefather of contemporary black liberation movements, wrote extensively on the psychological, political and ethical urgencies of black identity in a white world. In this event, we screen two films which cover the eminent thinker’s career, *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask* and *Concerning Violence*. Following the screenings, we will have a panel discussion and Q&A on the way in which Fanon has informed and continues to shape black activism in Bristol today, featuring local community leaders including Edson Burton and Marie-Annick Gournet. In partnership with Come The Revolution and the Watershed. booking required

Related events:
See Thursday 19 November, 18:00, Sunday 22 November, 14:00

Defining digital
Dickens: virtual friends/mutual friends

University of Buckingham
Series: University of Buckingham, Digital Dickens
Saturday 21 November, see website for updated times

Birkbeck University of London

The third and final workshop of the Defining Digital Dickens series brings together the bloggers and critics who formed the huge online reading group blogging on Dickens’s last completed novel, *Our Mutual Friend*. This workshop will unite as many as possible of those who took part in a wide-ranging discussion about the experience of reading Dickens, reading digitally, and the advantages and disadvantages of tweeting in character. Open to the public. Refreshments provided. booking may be required

Related events:
See Saturday 14 November, Tuesday 17 November, Thursday 19 November

Books in unexpected places

University of Reading
Saturday 21 November, 11:00–16:00
London Road Campus, University of Reading

This one-day event of short talks, discussions and displays will extend the idea of what a book is or might be. Talks will cover a range of topics from books in burials to philosophy in trenches to books as art. Researchers will show how everyday books such as diaries and sketchbooks may reveal unexpected ideas and perspectives, or challenge conventional views. Other events include a public workshop that will invite participants to share their reflections on books in the workplace, and children’s activities about making books for unexpected places. booking required (places limited)
Southern England listings

African connections:
poetry workshop
University of Bristol
Series: University of Bristol, InsideArts
Sunday 22 November, 12:00
Greenbank Pub, Bristol
This poetry workshop will focus on Bristol’s BME (black and minority ethnic) communities with acclaimed local poets Edson Burton and Miles Chambers leading participants through their own poetic works and voice. The workshop will feature a series of writing exercises and meditations to enable participants to use poetry to speak their own, unique Bristol stories. All ages and abilities welcome.

booking required

Armchair tour of the ‘Queer people’s knick knack emporium’
Victoria & Albert Museum
Sunday 22 November, 14:00
From the sumptuous Victorian surroundings of the V&A’s lecture theatre, performance artist Bird la Bird will take visitors on an ‘armchair tour’ through the museum’s seven miles of galleries and beyond. In her own imitable style, Bird will combine comedy, gossip, politics and insight, exploring the intersections between LGBT, class, and colonial history. Bird will include practical tips on how visitors can unearth hidden histories for themselves and ponder the nature of LGBT history while rifling through the V&A’s drawers. Visitors will also be able to download and follow a podcast trail around the Museum which Bird has renamed ‘The queer people’s knick knack emporium’.

booking may be required

From the queer film archives
Victoria & Albert Museum
Sunday 22 November, 11:00–12:30
Victoria & Albert Museum (The Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre), London
The Outfest UCLA Legacy Project is the only programme in the world devoted to preserving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender moving image media at risk of loss, deterioration, or neglect. Drawing from the Legacy Project, this event will feature a tantalising selection of documentary shorts from 1950– b 71. Highlights include Queens At Heart, an extraordinary pseudo-scientific interview with four male-to-female transsexuals from New York City in candid discussion about their lives and identities, and Mona’s Candle Light Footage, an exceedingly rare snippet presenting patrons of a San Francisco lesbian bar c.1950.

booking may be required

Related events:
See Thursday 19 November 18:00, Saturday 21 November 15:00
To book online and for up-to-date time, venue and access information, and even more events, visit: beinghumanfestival.org  |  @BeingHuman15

See our website for up-to-date time and venue details, access information and even more events: beinghumanfestival.org
Why did the chicken…?

University of Nottingham
Sunday 22 November, see website for updated times
Hen and Chickens Theatre, London

Chickens are funny. They look ridiculous, and they are stupid. But they taste good, which is one of the reasons why the species has been so successful at spreading round the world. While chickens have been the butt of jokes for many centuries, they also represent some serious issues that this AHRC-funded project is seeking to explore and address. This event will showcase the results of our research in a non-traditional way, by bringing together a host of stand-up comics and celebrities who are passionate about our research and want to help us highlight the issues of being a chicken in the 21st century.

booking required

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