



Rochdale Literature & Ideas Festival

Expand your mind

25-27 October 2013

www.rochdaleliteraturefestival.co.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Get set, go!

A big welcome to the first Rochdale Literature & Ideas Festival. We hope it will be the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in our borough.

We're very excited about the 2013 programme – over 40 shows in 3 days and truly something for everyone. It's an inspiring schedule covering drama, dance, music, theatre, film and visual arts as well as literature. We can certainly rely on the artists who are appearing to come up with something to make us think, to challenge us and entertain.

We hope this programme helps you navigate around the festival so you can spend the maximum amount of time enjoying yourself.

The festival is thanks to the generosity of Annie and Frank Maskew, a Rochdale couple who met in the original Rochdale Library in the 1950s. They shared a profound love of literature and philosophy and left a sum of money to be used on resources and events related to literature and philosophy, ensuring classic works are available for future generations.

Make sure you see something new, soak up the atmosphere and try something a bit different – you're likely to discover a treat!

Enjoy the festival.

The Festival Team

Rochdale Borough Council
Library Service staff and
our partners



I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to put this festival together and give a warm welcome to all our visitors.

To have such a fantastic line up for our first festival is wonderful and really sets the standard for years to come. I hope you enjoy it.

Councillor Peter Williams
Deputy Leader, Rochdale Borough Council

Festival compere

Norman Warwick

The festival is hosted by Rochdale-based poet, writer and broadcaster, Norman Warwick.

He is a regular contributor to local and regional media, compiling the **All Across the Arts** page in the Rochdale Observer. He appears on BBC Radio and was a judge on the BBC television series **Off By Heart**.

The festival is organised by Rochdale Borough Council, funded by the Maskew Collection and the Arts Council's Grants for the Arts Award. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure accuracy of information at the time of going to print, Rochdale Borough Council 'the organisers' do not warrant or assume any legal liability for the accuracy of information disclosed. Rochdale Borough Council reserves the right to change information contained within the programme. Please pass your programme onto a friend or recycle it when you've finished with it.

Think again

Welcome to Rochdale

Rochdale town centre is being transformed. An attractive vibrant town centre is being created, with fantastic leisure, shopping, cultural and learning opportunities.

Number One Riverside, the main festival venue, is the latest new development. Rochdale Leisure Centre on Entwisle Road opened in 2012. Metrolink trams now arrive at Rochdale train station and are due to come right into the centre in 2014.



The striking new Transport Interchange on Smith Street is close to completion. There are imaginative ideas to celebrate our rich heritage - plans to uncover the River Roch to reveal historic medieval bridges and proposals to make the most out of our fabulous Grade 1 listed town hall. With two colleges close to the town centre, the award winning Touchstones Arts & Heritage Centre, restored Co-operative Pioneers Museum and plans for a major retail and leisure development, Rochdale is ready to rise again. The day after the festival the 2013 Rugby League World Cup comes to town, and next year we welcome the 2014 Tour de France.

Visit www.rochdaletowncentre.com or follow @RochdaleCentre for the latest.

Getting here

You can travel to Rochdale by train, Metrolink or bus. The train station is a ten minute walk from the main festival venue, and the bus station is directly opposite. If you are bringing your own car you can park for free after 3pm on weekdays in any council car park or metered on street parking. Parking is free on Saturdays and Sundays too. The town is also dotted with conveniently located taxi ranks.

Access information

Our intention is to make everything we do accessible to all our audiences.

We therefore offer a free ticket for support workers/assistants that travel with disabled patrons to ensure they are able to attend. Please be prepared to show relevant ID upon admission to events.

If you have any special requirements or are a support worker/assistant please call **0845 121 2976** or email library.service@rochdale.gov.uk

All our venues are accessible to disabled people.

We want to learn more about your experience of access at Rochdale Literature & Ideas Festival and would welcome your feedback by emailing RochdaleLitFest@rochdale.gov.uk

Get inspired! - The festival blog

Visit our website for the festival blog. As well as finding out more about what's going on it's the first place to find the latest news and reviews.

We'll also post the best entries of our young persons' blog competition **A day in my life** and adults' poetry competition 'I say it as I see it' right here.

If you feel inspired - enter our blog competition or poetry competition. All the information you'll need is at www.rochdaleliteraturefestival.co.uk

Do something different



Beyond the Margins: Readings from Simon Armitage

Poet **Simon Armitage** has seen his work taken into television, radio, the internet, recorded music, the stage and even onto carved stones on the Pennine Moors. Using film clips and recordings, he'll talk about his work as well as read his published poetry.

Rochdale Central Library

14:00 (1 hour) £2 (booking required) Suitable for age 14+

Writing workshop with Simon Armitage

Poet **Simon Armitage** leads an inspirational writing workshop.

Rochdale Central Library

15:30 (1 hour) £5 (booking required) Suitable for age 14+

What I have learnt about how to think up new product ideas and turn them into reality

Mark Champkins

A big show and tell of the quirky, daft and clever from the former British Inventor of the Year, best known for his success in the BBC2 television programme *Dragons' Den*.

Mark was the first Inventor in Residence at the Science Museum in London creating quirky products such as levitating cutlery and word count pencils. Last year he designed *Stephen Hawking* a 70th birthday present. He'll be sharing his own passion for ingenuity and inventiveness, expanding on the ideas and inventions that have informed his work.

Rochdale Central Library

19:15 (1 hour) £2 (booking required) Suitable for age 11+



Meet Trevor Hoyle

Multi award-winning author & playwright **Trevor Hoyle** has published a wide range of fiction from novels to short stories, including literary novels, thrillers and science fiction.

He writes drama for BBC Radio 4. His environmental novel *The Last Gasp* appears next year in a new edition from award-winning publisher Quercus. Trevor will be discussing two of his novels set in Rochdale and his drama work for the BBC.

Rochdale Central Library

11:00 (1 hour)

Free (booking required)

Suitable for age 14+

The Mask of Anarchy (film)

Rochdale Movie Makers and local writing groups

Members of Touchstones Creative Writing Group, Langley Writers, Co-operative Members Group, Weaving Words and Cartwheel Arts, gathered together to perform readings of *The Mask of Anarchy* on 17 August 2013 across the borough.

In this film of the event, readers from our creative writing groups bring to life Shelley's epic poem. On 16 August 1819, an estimated 60,000 people from across Lancashire gathered at St Peter's Field, Manchester, to campaign for parliamentary reform against a backdrop of poverty and squalid living conditions. Magistrates sent in the cavalry to 'disperse' the crowd and arrest the speakers. Fifteen were killed and hundreds were injured as the cavalry slashed at innocent people with their sabres. Poet **Percy Bysshe Shelley** was so disgusted by these atrocities, that in response he penned *The Mask of Anarchy*, which explores the plight of the British working classes in 1819.

194 years later, this film premiere showcases a new interpretation of this historic event.

Rochdale Central Library

12:30 (1 hour)

Free (non-ticketed)

Suitable for age 14+

Troll Swap workshop

Leigh Hodgkinson

Oodles of flair and imagination will be needed as top children's author, illustrator and animator **Leigh Hodgkinson** reads her latest book *Troll Swap* and invites you to make your very own collage troll hand puppet!

Aside from her many brilliant children's picture books, Leigh was Art Director of the BAFTA winning animated series *Charlie and Lola*. Fun and laughter guaranteed.

Rochdale Central Library

16:30 (1 hour)

£2 (booking required)

Suitable for ages 4-8, accompanied by an adult

The Pied Piper

Melvyn Rawlinson & Professor Popup's Puppet Theatre

A charming show especially written for children. Performed with mechanical toys, clockwork boxes, glove and finger puppets, gentle music and lighting this performance is a delightful and colourful introduction to story telling and puppet theatre for the very young.

Melvyn has always loved those traditional stories you first hear in childhood and puppetry is the perfect medium to catch the flavour of often larger than life characters.

Rochdale Central Library

18:00 (1 hour)

Free (booking required)

Suitable for all ages (Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult)

Frozen Music

Rochdale Music Service

A music performance like no other – produced especially for the festival, featuring young musicians from across the borough.

Work of local poets will be featured and the evening culminates in a breathtaking finale.

Rochdale Central Library

17:00 (3.5 hours)

Free

(non-ticketed, drop in/drop out)



Book signings

Books written by the festival guests will be on sale during the festival and there will be signing sessions every day.





Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy

accompanied by John Sampson

Britain's first female Poet Laureate has received international acclaim for her work.

Writing for all ages, her work is a mainstay of the national curriculum at GCSE and A-level. Carol Ann's collections include *Standing Female Nude*, *The Bees* and *Rapture*.

She is also a playwright and has often collaborated with musicians throughout her career. She will read her work accompanied by musician John Sampson, as he weaves music into her poetry for a magical musical experience. Books will be on sale during this event which Carol Ann will be happy to sign.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

17:30 (1 hour) £5 (booking required) Suitable for ages 14+

Akala Live!

MOBO award-winning hip-hop artist Akala will be performing tracks from his album *Doublethink*.

The performance promises to bring George Orwell's 1984 to life through hip-hop music, rapping, singing and drumming. Akala is a label owner and social entrepreneur who fuses unique rap/rock/electro-punk sound with fierce lyrical storytelling.

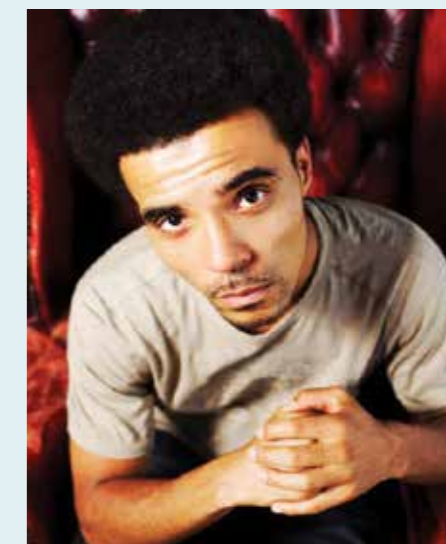
Known for his compelling talks, television presenting and script-writing talents Akala is one of the most dynamic and literate talents in the UK today.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

16:00 (1 hour)

£5 (booking required)

Suitable for ages 11+



James Nash

Performs poetry to music



Prolific writer and poet James Nash reads from his latest collection 'Some Things Matter,' with musical accompaniment by Mik Davis, whose settings of James' poetry have been a huge success. James has had many short stories published and is currently working on his second novel.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

11:00 (1 hour)

Free (non-ticketed)

Suitable for all ages (Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult)

James Nash

Sonnet writing workshop

James follows his performance with an interactive session on sonnet writing, for poets and writers at any stage of their writing experience.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

12:15 (1 hour 15 minutes)

Free (booking required)

Suitable for age 14+

Mural workshop: Help create a mural for the Children's Library

Vincent James

Visual artist, Vincent James, will work with children to create designs for a new mural to adorn the children's area at the new Rochdale Central Library.

A series of poems have already been created by Rochdale school children, inspired by artist Peter King's library light installation. These poems will provide inspiration for the new mural. When the designs are complete, children will be able to create their own animations with Vincent, along with video animators.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

11:00 (5 hours)

Free (non-ticketed, drop in/drop out)

Suitable for all ages

(Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult)

Music and poetry... why the fashion to blend them?

Panel discussion from Manchester Salon

Poet Mike Garry, rapper Akala, literary commentator Shirley Dent and local writer Norman Warwick consider the artistic tensions involved in blending poetry with music, chaired by Rania Hafez, director of the professional network, Muslim Women in Education.

This promises to be a lively and thought-provoking discussion for anyone interested in the arts.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

13:00 (1 hour 30 minutes)

Free (booking required)

Suitable for ages 14+



Dialect poetry and clog performance

Heritage Clog & Sid Calderbank



A massed clog dance in a flashmob style, developed exclusively for the festival.

Performed by local people of all ages and North West clog teams, and supported by fantastic music from Rochdale Music Service's award winning folk groups, this multi-media performance will include dance, music, poetry and more.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

14:00 (1 hour)

Free (non-ticketed)

Suitable for all ages

(Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult)



Arts across the borough

Throughout the festival local arts groups will be showcasing their work. **Come and say hello!**

The Fire Bird

Susanna Oldfield



A dynamic, engaging and charismatic storyteller, Susanna's fresh style brings age-old stories back into the 21st Century with a bang.

Her natural comic timing, flexible facial expressions and vocal colour bring all kinds of fantastical features to life, from quirky folk tales to epic myths. The classic Russian tale *The Fire Bird* has it all: wicked brothers, greedy tsars, the Princess of Inexhaustible Loveliness (you need to meet her), the evil sorcerer Kastchey the Deathless, a flying wolf, and a bird of flaming feathers.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

15:00 (1 hour)

Free (non-ticketed)

Suitable for all ages

(Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult)

Posh Tramps and Papooses

MaD Theatre Company



The latest play from Manchester's celebrated MaD Theatre Company - and a return to their unique blend of surreal political satire and downright barmyness! *Posh Tramps* follows the Longbottom family from Rochdale. Head of the family is Ma who has recently divorced her 'wife' in Rochdale's first ever same sex civil split. However, undeterred, and in an attempt to put that behind her, she is now looking for a fella on the internet. An hilarious modern fairy tale as class and culture collide.

[Touchstones Arts & Heritage Centre](#)

19:00 (2 hours including interval)

£5 (booking required)

Suitable for ages 14+



Street to Recovery

Kevin Kennedy

Legendary **Coronation Street** actor **Kevin Kennedy**, best known for his role as television's Curly Watts is one of the UK's most successful soap actors.

He's since become a West End star, treading the boards in the smash hit musical **We Will Rock You** and is just about to publish his tell-all autobiography - **The Street to Recovery** - covering his 20 years on the street, his battle with addiction and recovery, as well as his future plans. The brutally honest book will include stories from working on **Coronation Street**. He'll be talking candidly about his life, and answering questions from the audience. As a festival exclusive. Kevin will also be signing copies of his brand new book.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

13:00 (1 hour) **Free** (booking required) Suitable for ages 14+

Elementary, My Dear Oscar

Gyles Brandreth

The author, broadcaster, ex-MP, reporter with **The One Show** on BBC1 and a regular on Radio 4's **Just a Minute**, talks about his new life as an acclaimed author of Victorian murder mysteries, featuring **Oscar Wilde** as the detective.

Gyles explores the extraordinary story of **Oscar Wilde** and his unusual friendship with **Arthur Conan Doyle** and brings to life a range of the remarkable characters in their circle, from Sir Henry Irving to **Bram Stoker**, the creator of **Dracula**. Gyles' entertaining talk will be followed by a Q&A session. Books will be on sale during this event which Gyles will be happy to sign.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

16:00 (1 hour 30 minutes) **£5** (booking required) Suitable for ages 14+



Wimpy Kid Show

Alastair Watson



Host **Alastair Watson** brings the popular books to life with fun activities including **The Wimpy Kid Draw-Along** and **The Wimp Wars** quiz.

The show also includes exclusive clips of author **Jeff Kinney** talking about the books, his involvement in the films and showing how he draws the characters. All those who purchase a book on the day will be eligible for it to be stamped with an exclusive **Wimpy Kid Show** stamp!

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

10:30 (1 hour)
£2 (booking required)
Suitable for ages 8+
(Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult)

Glee and Glum/Invisible: Launch and performed extracts

M6 Act Now!

The participatory arm of **M6 Theatre Company** launches two new published plays - **Glee and Glum** for older teenagers and **Invisible** for 8-11 year olds.

The launch will be accompanied by performed extracts of the plays by **M6 Youth Theatre**.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

12:00 (30 minutes)
Free (non-ticketed)
Suitable for ages 8+
(Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult)



Drama workshop

M6 Act Now!

M6 presents a drama taster workshop with improvisation games and other fun activities for young people interested in acting.

Everyone who attends the workshop will receive a free copy of one of M6's recently launched plays.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

12:45 (1 hour 15 minutes)
Free (booking required)
Suitable for ages 12-16

Grandpa's Railway

M6 Theatre

Imagine a railway that fits in one room, but travels the world in just one afternoon.

A toot of the whistle, a hiss of the steam. A tale of adventures, surprises and dreams!

From the team behind the highly acclaimed **Sunflowers and Sheds** and **Mavis Sparkle**, comes M6's brand new original production for children and families. Featuring live music, a working model railway and a coachload of surprises.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

14:00 (1 hour)
£2 (booking required)
Suitable for ages 5+
(Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult)



Tries and Prejudice

Ikram Butt

On the eve of the **Rugby League World Cup 2013** in Rochdale, **Ikram** talks about his amazing journey from the back streets of Leeds to Westminster, where he has helped shape government policy on community development in sport.

Ikram became a professional rugby league player with his hometown, Leeds, while he was still a teenager, before becoming **England's first Muslim rugby international in 1995** when he played against Wales in Cardiff. Since retiring from the sport, he has set up the **British Asian Rugby Association (BARA)** and become one of the most inspirational Asian role models in the country.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

18:00 (1 hour)
Free (booking required) Suitable for ages 14+



Risktakers & Kingsway Park High School

Young People's Haka Performance

As part of the **Try Reading project**, poetry and dance artists, risktakers, together with young people from **Kingsway Park High School**, perform a specially created Haka to bring the festival to a close.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

19:00 (30 minutes)
Free (non-ticketed)
Suitable for all ages
(Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult)



Family fun

Every day there'll be lots of family friendly activities including treasure hunts & storytime sessions.



Pre-festival events

Before the main festival begins, look out for special preview events across the borough – **all free!** (No booking required). They'll all showcase the written and creative work of a diverse range of community groups from across Heywood, Middleton, Rochdale and the Pennines. For further details, including times, please visit the website.



Thursday 3 October

National poetry day - theme of Water

The event will showcase creative work developed by a range of community groups based on the theme of Water.

Come along and get hands on with a range of activities including creative writing, visual arts and help create a watery world mural.

[Rochdale Central Library](#)

Saturday 5 October

Film and visual arts - theme of Earth

The event will showcase visual arts and film work developed by a range of community groups based on the theme of Earth.

Come along and get hands on with a range of activities including visual arts, creative writing and clay model making.

[Littleborough Library](#)



Saturday 12 October

Music and poetry - theme of Air

The event will showcase poetry and music developed by a range of community groups based on the theme of Air.

Come along and get hands on with a range of activities including creative writing and music workshops. Make your own hot air balloon poem to keep or to set free.

[Darnhill Library](#)

Saturday 19 October

Theatre and dance - theme of Fire

The event will showcase theatre and dance pieces developed by a range of community groups based on the theme of Fire.

Come along and get hands on with a range of activities including performance and dance workshops and the chance to make your own poetry torches.

[Langley Library](#)

Book yourself in!

The festival website is the only way to get tickets for every ticketed show at Rochdale Literature & Ideas Festival.

There are no booking fees or additional charges. The ticket price is the price you pay.

**Book online at www.rochdaleliteraturefestival.co.uk
24 hours a day, seven days a week.**

You can print paper tickets yourself via the website, or use the free mobile phone app to show at the event. (You'll get the option when you book)

The festival cannot refund money or exchange tickets, except in the case of a cancelled performance.



Stop press

We're adding new events every week so visit our website for the very latest.

Timings

All timings are approximate and are for guidance only. Doors open 15 minutes before the performance is due to start.

Latecomers

Please arrive in plenty of time. It is not always possible to admit latecomers once an event has started and we reserve the right to refuse admission to any performance until a suitable break.

Free events

Free events may have limited capacity and entry cannot be guaranteed. Please arrive early.

Recording/filming

Some events or shows may be filmed or photographed. Attendance at an event affirms your consent to the filming, sound recording or photographing of yourself as a member of the audience.





Rochdale Literature & Ideas Festival



Our partners

