

mklitfest.org



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MK LIT FEST

A fabulous festival of books, words, writers and ideas

Central Milton Keynes

9-12 April

2025

MK Lit Fest

**Aki Schilz Anna February Dónall Mac Cathmhaoill Edward Stourton
Eley Williams Hallie Rubenhold Hannah Copley Henry Porter
Jack Noel Kalliane Bradley Laura Henry-Allain Lubaaba Al-Azami
Mark Billingham Michael Stewart Onjali Q. Raúf Sabrina Mahfouz
Sanjana Modha Sarah Pinborough Will Burns Zoe Gilbert**

Proudly working with



Plus, sponsored by the Open University as part of our Online Programme,
four events on **Free Speech and the Politics of Literature:**

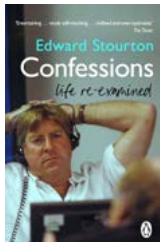
*Literature and Offence; The Age of the Algorithm;
Historical Cancel Culture; Translation and Censorship*

Online on Mondays in March at 7.30pm



IngramSpark 10AM-3PM • INGRAMSPARK, KILN FARM • £FREE (MUST PRE-BOOK)

Tour **Ingram's** world-class printing facility, gain in-depth knowledge on key aspects of successful publishing, including marketing, distribution and metadata, and meet other local writers. A must for anyone interested in indie and self-publishing.



EDWARD STOURTON: CONFESSIONS

7-8PM • WATERSTONES MK • £10/£7

One of British broadcasting's best-known names reflects on his life against the context of a world that's changed dramatically during his forty-year career. As, of course, has **Ed Stourton**, who shares his remarkable journey with his familiar candour, humour and insight.

HOME: MINK2025 PRIZEWINNERS CEREMONY AND ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

THURSDAY 10 APRIL

6:30-7:15PM • THE PARKS TRUST PAVILION, CAMPBELL PARK • £FREE

Celebrate the winners of our 2025 Creative Writing Competition – exploring the theme 'Home' – as author **Michael Stewart** awards the prizes and introduces readings by the winning writers, and we launch **Mink#5**, our latest anthology of the best local writing.



POETRY IN THE PAVILION: HANNAH COPLEY AND WILL BURNS



7:45-8:45PM • THE PARKS TRUST PAVILION, CAMPBELL PARK • £10/£7

As a new wave of nature-writing in poetry explores our vital and threatened relationship with the environment and the flora and fauna with which we share it, **Hannah Copley** and **Will Burns** share their work and discuss how they address the natural world.

WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY 11 APRIL

COMMUNITY LEARNING MK, CMK LIBRARY • £20/£15 PER WORKSHOP (PLACES LIMITED)

FINDING YOUR VOICE: WORKSHOP WITH MICHAEL STEWART

10AM-12PM

We often talk about a writer's voice, but what does it mean? This workshop explores the relationship between voice and style, how your voice can be developed, and its importance in shaping how your work is received.

WHAT EDITING IS: WORKSHOP WITH AKI SCHILZ

12:30-2:30PM

Discover how a professional editor thinks when they review a manuscript, and how to apply this approach to your own work. Learn what editing is, what publishers are looking for, how to finish your book, and your best next steps as a writer.

SPINNING TALES WITH MYTH AND FOLKLORE:

3-5PM

WORKSHOP WITH ZOE GILBERT

Explore using myth and folklore as starting points for fiction, creating modern myths and informing folklore-inspired tales. This includes tools, readings and exercises to shape traditional sources into brand-new stories while retaining their inherent resonance and power.

FREE SPEECH AND THE POLITICS OF LITERATURE

FRIDAY 11 APRIL



The Open University

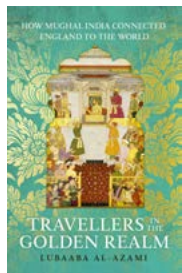
6-7PM • WATERSTONES MK • £10/£7

Literature has always been on the front line in debates about free speech – and never more so than today. Join **Aki Schilz**, **Henry Porter**, **Sabrina Mahfouz** and **Dónall Mac Cathmhaoill**, writers whose distinct experiences and expertise on the issue of freedom of expression can help make sense of our paradoxical times.

KALIANE BRADLEY: THE MINISTRY OF TIME IN CONVERSATION WITH ELEY WILLIAMS

7:30-8:30PM • WATERSTONES MK • £10/£7

In **Kaliane Bradley's** astonishing debut novel, a mysterious government ministry gathers 'expats' from history to test the limits of time travel. In this fabulous fusion of genre and ideas, she asks, how can you defy history when history is living in your house?



LUBAABA AL-AZAMI: TRAVELLERS IN THE GOLDEN REALM

10:30-11:30AM • CMK LIBRARY • £10/£7

Cultural historian **Lubaaba Al-Azami** explores the dramatic story of the first English travellers to India in the 16th century, their encounters with an unimaginable superpower – the Mughal dynasty – and what grew from this tempestuous period of England's past.

SATURDAY 12 APRIL

ANNA FEBRUARY: THE HIVE (YOUNG ADULT)

12-1PM • CMK LIBRARY • £5

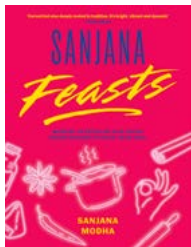
Anna February's thrilling dystopian murder mystery in a ruthless future monarchy. Bodyguard Feldspar awaits execution, guilty of living when her charge lies dead. With just one defender, a royal maverick, on her side, she has three days to uncover the truth...



HALLIE RUBENHOLD: STORY OF A MURDER

1:30-2:30PM • CMK LIBRARY • £10/£7

Award-winning social historian **Hallie Rubenhold** subverts history with her epic retelling of the wife-murderer Dr Crippen's infamous true-crime story – and how an extraordinary group of music hall women brought him to justice.



SANJANA MODHA: SANJANA FEASTS

SATURDAY 12 APRIL

3-4PM • CMK LIBRARY • £12.50/£9 (INCLUDES TASTING PLATE)

Sanjana Modha, a rising star in modern Indian cuisine, showcases the bold flavours and creativity of the Indian diaspora, and explores how the recipes she loves are rooted in her Indian heritage, East African family background, and Yorkshire childhood.

RAISING VOICES: A CHORUS OF LOCAL WRITERS

5-6:30PM • WATERSTONES MK • £FREE

Tales from the city, from green spaces, from home. From Midsummer, Midwinter, Lammas, the future, the past and more... Join us for a medley of readings that celebrate fabulous local writing from eight years of MK Lit Fest.

MARK BILLINGHAM: THE WRONG HANDS IN CONVERSATION WITH SARAH PINBOROUGH

7:30-8:30PM • WATERSTONES MK • £10/£7

Multi-bestselling **Mark Billingham** – one of our most acclaimed and popular crime writers – brings his brilliant, twisty new detective novel *The Wrong Hands* to MK, in conversation with internationally bestselling author **Sarah Pinborough**. Join us for a criminally entertaining festival finale!

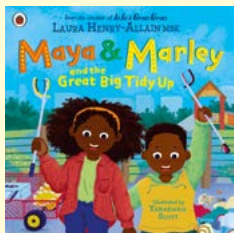


CHILDREN'S LIT FEST

SUPPORTED BY CENTRE:MK

SATURDAY 12 APRIL

CMK LIBRARY • £5 PER EVENT (PLUS £3 PER ACCOMPANYING ADULT)



Laura Henry-Allain: MAYA & MARLEY AND THE GREAT BIG TIDY UP (AGE 4+)

12-1PM

Join Maya and Marley on their Great Big Tidy Up! **Laura Henry-Allain** – creator of CBeebies series *JoJo and Gran Gran* – brings her adventurous new picture book to life, and reminds us that caring for our world and each other makes everyone happier!

JACK NOEL: DADBOT (AGE 6+)

1:30-2:30PM

Meet **Jack Noel's** all-new DADBOT at this hilarious event full of puns, drawing and dastardly dad-napping! Josh and Daisy upgrade to a super-strength robo-dad, but evil Dr Egg wants him too. Can they save Dadbot before it's too late?



ONJALI Q. RAUF: THE LETTER WITH THE GOLDEN STAMP (AGE 8+)

3-4PM

Onjali Q. Rauf shares the adventures of Audrey, a secret Young Carer, stamp collector – and thief – whose mysterious neighbour just might be a spy. With her best friends and a friendly postman in tow, she must find a way to save her family...