



Maryport LitFest is ten years old in 2017 and, again, we take inspiration from one of the stunning objects in the Museum's collections. The festival is intimate and cosy, encouraging interaction between authors and audience in a way which is not possible in a larger venue. Angela Locke, author, creative writing tutor and co-organiser of the LitFest, likens it to an 18th century coffee house, where ideas are exchanged and inspiration is born.

This year we explore travel writing and the ideas behind 'a sense of place'. The theme is inspired by a unique relief of the Celtic horse goddess Epona, which featured, along with loans from the British Museum and international museums, in the recent Hadrian's Cavalry exhibition. The LitFest is hosted by Angela Locke (her latest book, *On Juniper Mountain*, recounts her life-changing experiences in the Himalayas, and evokes the beauty of Nepal and its people) and Grevel Lindop, author of *Travels on the Dance Floor*.

We are grateful to the LitFest Patron Melvyn Bragg, Lord Bragg for his continuing support.

Day tickets are available for:  
Saturday (£25) and Sunday (£20) (includes lunch)

A sandwich lunch can be pre-ordered for Saturday and Sunday: £5.00/day (available at 12.30pm on both days).

**For tickets call 01900 816168 to use your debit/credit card or call in at the museum**

**Senhouse Roman Museum, the Battery, Sea Brows, Maryport, Cumbria, CA15 6JD**

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# Travel Writing

## A SENSE OF PLACE



## A Literary Festival

AT THE SENHOUSE ROMAN MUSEUM, MARYPORT

Friday 17th - Sunday 19th November 2017

[www.senhousemuseum.co.uk](http://www.senhousemuseum.co.uk)



## Friday 17th November 2017

### 10am – 1pm

Poetry workshop with poet George Szirtes. Suitable for all abilities, bring your notebook and pen.

£6.00 (booking essential)

### 2pm – 5pm Transporting the reader:

A travel writing workshop with acclaimed creative writing tutor Grevel Lindop. Suitable for all abilities, bring your notebook and pen. £6.00 (booking essential)

## Saturday 18th November 2017

### 10.15am: Evoking a sense of place: from Hungary to China

Born in Hungary in 1948, George Szirtes published his first book of poems, *The Slant Door*, in 1979. It won the Faber Prize. George has published many since then, *Reel* (2004) winning the T S Eliot Prize, for which he has been twice shortlisted since. His latest book is *Mapping the Delta* (Bloodaxe 2016). £4.00

### 11.30am: 'Travels on Horseback' and other stories

Sailor, journalist and saddle tramp Bob Orrell will be in conversation with Angela Locke. Bob has written several engaging and entertaining books about his experiences of trekking through Britain's wild places with his Fell Ponies, and sailing the Western Isles of Scotland. £4.00

### 12.30pm: Lunch break and open-mic

Lunch can be pre-booked (£5.00) or you can bring a picnic and share poetry.

### 2pm: Evoking a sense of place: Winter Migrants

Tom Pickard will be reading from his latest collection, recently published by Carcanet. His collected poems *HOYOOT* was published in 2014. A previous collection published in Chicago, including *Ballad of Jamie Allan*, was a finalist in the USA National Book Critics Circle awards. Born on Tyneside he now lives in Maryport. £4.00

### 3.15pm: The Rainmaker's Wife: The voices of indigenous peoples

Kathleen Jones has spent years travelling to, or living in, other countries and it has had a profound effect on her writing life. Recent travels to the remote Pacific islands of Haida Gwaii produced a journal *Travelling to the Edge of the World* and a collection of poems, *The Rainmaker's Wife*. Time spent in Italy inspired a series of short stories called *Mussolini's Hat* and a journey to Croatia produced a novel – *The Centauress*. £4.00

### 4.30pm: The Dog of Memory

Cumbria born poet, Helen Farish's debut collection, *Intimates*, won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. Two further collections have followed - *Nocturnes at Nohant* and *The Dog of Memory*. £4.00

### 7.30pm: Towards Mellbreak: a love of place

Marie-Elsa Bragg's novel, *Towards Mellbreak*, is about four generations of a quiet hill farming family on the North Western fells of Cumbria. Marie-Elsa Roche Bragg has contributed articles and interviews for papers such as the *Telegraph* and the *Church Times*, radio pieces for BBC Radio 4 and interviews for literary festivals and *Story Vault Films*. £6.00 (includes wine)

## Sunday 19th November 2017

### 10.15am: The travel writing of Dorothy Wordsworth

Susan Allen is the Community Outreach Officer for The Wordsworth Trust. Through her work she inspires communities to share literature, stories and histories of the places where they live and the Wordsworths lived. She will be talking about Dorothy Wordsworth's writing such as her *Grasmere Journals*, inspired by her, and her brother William's, travels around Britain. £4.00

### 11.30am: Blogging for the bemused

Writing a blog can be an effective way of publishing travel writing but many are unsure how to go about it. Kathleen Jones shares her experience and knowledge of the art of blogging. This practical session will send the audience away inspired to have a go. £4.00

### 12.30pm: Lunch break and open-mic

Lunch can be pre-booked (£5) or bring a picnic.

### 2pm: The January Man

Christopher Somerville's exquisitely written account of the British countryside not only inspires us to don our boots and explore, but also illustrates how, on long-distance walks, we can come to an understanding of ourselves and our fellow walkers. *The January Man* is the story of a year of walks that was inspired by a song, Dave Goulder's 'The January Man'. Month by month, season by season and region by region, Christopher Somerville walks the British Isles. As he travels the country he describes the history, wildlife, landscapes and people he encounters, down back lanes and old paths, in rain and fair weather. Christopher is the walking correspondent for *The Times*. £4.00

### 3.15pm : How the West was Lost

The Bard of Windmill Hill is poet in residence and co-director of Bristol's longest running variety show *Lansdown Cabaret*, and author of four collections of poetry. He has won two storytelling prizes. In 2014 he was crowned Bristol Storyteller of the Year, and he is the only poet to have won this performance competition. On Sunday afternoon he will be presenting his summary of 'How the West was Lost' and other poems relating to the themes of travel, place and identity. £4.00

### 4.30pm: The Lakeland Dialect Society

Back by popular demand the LDS will finish this year's LitFest with their usual spirited performance grounded in travels through Lakeland's very special landscape. £4.00

See [www.senhousemuseum.co.uk](http://www.senhousemuseum.co.uk) for further details

The programme may be subject to change. The organisers of the Festival cannot be held liable for the non-appearance of any of the speakers due to unavoidable circumstances.