

Quay Words and the Devon and Exeter Institution



Spring Season
March/April 2023

‘Threads’

Writer-in-Residence Recruitment Pack

www.quaywords.org.uk

Spring 2023 Writer-in-Residence at Quay Words and the Devon and Exeter Institution

Literature Works and the Devon and Exeter Institution are delighted to announce a writer-in-residence opportunity. The resident will be hosted across our two venues, Exeter Custom House, home to the Quay Words live-literature programme, and the Devon and Exeter Institution's thriving independent library.

Exeter Custom House is a historic building on Exeter Quayside owned by the charity Exeter Canal and Quay Trust (ECQT). Quay Words is developing the building as a 'literature hub' in the context of Exeter's UNESCO City of Literature programme. ECQT has commissioned Literature Works to deliver *Quay Words* programming at Exeter Custom House over the period 2022-23.

Quay Words is a partnership between ECQT and Literature Works, the literature development charity for South West England. It showcases literature as an accessible and diverse art form and the literature hub concept was a central pillar of Exeter's successful bid to gain UNESCO City of Literature status in 2019.

The Devon and Exeter Institution is a thriving independent library and educational charity in the heart of the city. It welcomes new members and visitors of all ages. Its founders established the Institution in 1813, in order to promote *'the general diffusion of Science, Literature and the Arts, and for illustrating the Natural and Civil History of the county of Devon and the History of the City of Exeter'*. This resolution remains at the centre of its strategy to this day

We are seeking to appoint a writer, storyteller, spoken word artist or other wordsmith to be in residence during the months of March and April 2023. You will spend at least 8 days 'in-residence' over the period, which can be spread out over a number of weeks or compressed into a shorter period. The selected writer will be engaged by Literature Works and the Devon and Exeter Institution on a contractor/freelance basis as writer-in-residence for the term.

The season theme of 'Threads'

Fabrics have shaped Exeter's history and the history of both our buildings. The wool trade made Exeter a prosperous city from the 16th-18th century, and Devon cloth was exported from here to the rest of the world. We're excited for a writer-in-residence to pick up the threads of this history and explore how it affects the city today. We encourage you to tell us about your particular interest or angle on this theme – for example, how does fashion affect and shape our world today in the face of climate change? How can clothes and cloth help people to reinvent and redefine themselves? What threads link the places and objects of Exeter to its wider international context? Where you take the theme of *Threads* is up to you.

We hope that you will draw creative enrichment from both Exeter Custom House and the Quayside and make use of the Devon and Exeter Institution's valuable collections. The range of source material dates from the 16th Century to the present day and includes records of textile items specific to Devon and those acquired by colonial exploration in the 18th Century.

During the same period there will be a visual arts residency taking place at Exeter Custom House, produced by Honeyscribe, with a focus on cloth, stitching and mending. We encourage the writer-in-residence to interact and ideally collaborate with the visual artist/s during their time in residence.

Residency terms

The writer-in-residence will be contracted to be based at Exeter Custom House and DEI for a minimum of eight days during the period from 1st March to 30th April. This could be one day a week over an eight- week period, or in a more compressed time frame. During that time, as well as working on their own creative output, they will deliver up to four public-facing events or workshops of their own design, based on their time in these unique settings. These may be workshops, talks, discussions or other creative activities: we are open to ideas. We are able to support a blended approach, combining activity in situ with broadcast to digital audiences (see note below about use of digital in adhering to latest guidance).

The writer-in-residence will have free access to the *Quay Words* Spring 2023 programme of events at the Custom House, presenting opportunities to connect with other writers and our wide range of partners, including relevant monthly author events such as the author and fashion curator Claire Wilcox. The writer will also be given one-year membership of the DEI.

We are looking for creative responses to the theme and seeking a writer-in-residence who can uncover and transform stories from their own perspective. Following this - and within one month from the end of their residency – we will invite the writer to create a short piece or performance which Literature Works and the DEI may publish or produce. The nature of this commissioned piece is to be negotiated during the interview process.

Residency package

We offer an inclusive fee for the Residency of £2,000 to include the delivery of the public-facing events. We will encourage our writer to find time to develop their own work during the residency and we invite them to spend as much time at the two sites as they wish. We will provide a private writing space in the Exeter Custom House building for the duration of the residency, and the DEI's library provides an excellent environment for writing.

How to apply

Please apply in writing on no more than two sheets of A4, outlining your relevant experience, why you would like to undertake this residency and the impact it would have on your own work and development. Please summarise your availability within the given time period and your ability to meet the requirements of the commission, including travel to Exeter. Please also include a writing CV, with full details of your writing and publishing record.

TO NOTE: The Spring 2023 residency is taking place in person. We are able to work in a blended way, combining in person activity/events with live streaming. We continue to monitor and adhere to government and local authority guidance. Should circumstances at any point prevent activity from taking place in situ, we will work with our writer-in-residence to move activity online where possible.

Please email your applications to: quaywords@literatureworks.org.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications is midnight on Tuesday 15th November

Candidates selected for interview will be notified on Wednesday 23rd November

Interviews will take place in Exeter on Wednesday 30th November

www.literatureworks.org.uk