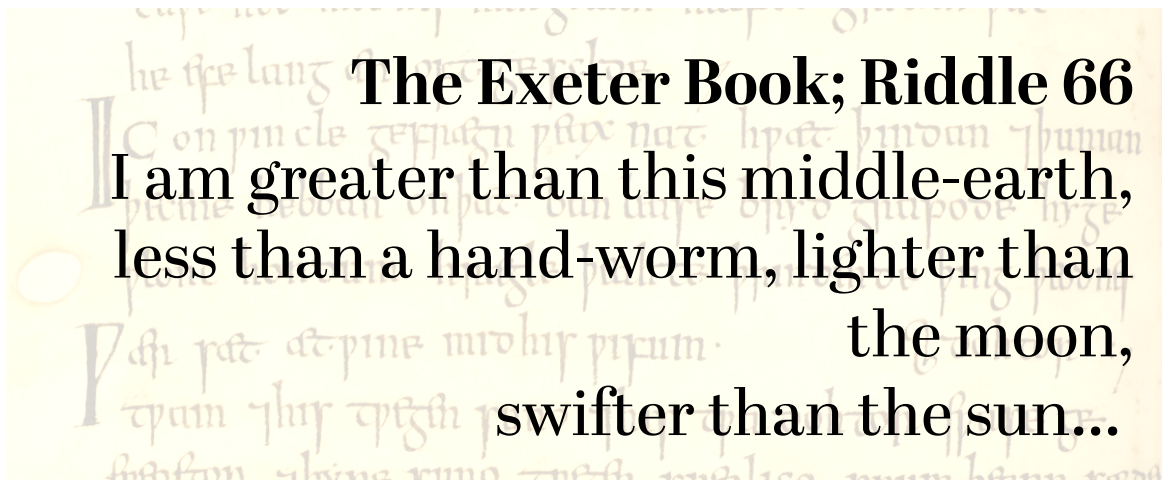




Exeter Cathedral, Riddler in Residence

Recruitment pack

December 2021



Riddler in Residence at Exeter Cathedral – February to March 2022

Information Pack

Exeter Cathedral is delighted to announce the first ever Riddler in Residence. We are looking for a wordsmith; whether poet, writer, storyteller, spoken word artist or lyricist to co-create a poetic response to include performances, linking the 10th century poems and riddles of *The Exeter Book* with contemporary verse.

Exeter is a UNESCO City of Literature and a member of the Cities of Culture global network. *The Exeter Book* has UNESCO Memory of the World status, signalling its 'outstanding significance' to British and world history.

The residency will be based at Exeter Cathedral and at partner locations in Exeter during the period from 31st January to World Poetry Day on 21st March 2022.

We prioritise inclusivity, richness of experience and diversity. We particularly welcome expressions of interest from under-represented groups, including but not limited to people who are LGBTQI, BAME, under 35-years old, or disabled people.

The brief

This is an opportunity for a poet or writer, working as Riddler in Residence, to devise and deliver creative workshops with young people, while also creating their own response to *The Exeter Book*, the Cathedral's great treasure and the earliest volume of English literature.

The Exeter Book is an astonishing and vivid codex, speaking to universal human themes which remain as relevant now as they were at the time of its creation over one thousand years ago. We will provide access to the book and to the Cathedral's rich archive.

This is a residency based very much in contemporary experience, using *The Exeter Book* as the inspiration to explore universal themes. We want the Riddler to open up these themes with young people and together to look at their contemporary resonance. From nature, to climate change, the search for identity, home and new experiences – the universal themes are all in there, waiting for you to release them.

Creative workshops

We are looking for a practitioner with experience of delivering creative workshops with young people. We have identified two groups to work with them and the Riddler will draw on their own experience and strengths to identify a third group of young people to bring into the project. If you have experience of working with particular under-represented groups, such as people with special needs or disabilities, we will support you to connect with them in Exeter.

The Riddler in Residence will deliver a series of creative workshops during the month of February and in early March, on location at:

[The 100 Club at Countess Wear](#), working with young people at this independent youth service, run with support from Devon County Council, for people aged 12-15 years. Some of these participants may not have been to the Cathedral before. The group meets on Wednesday evenings.

[Isca Academy](#). The Riddler will work with three English [Language or Literature, TBC] classes – a total of 90-100 teenagers - delivering workshops during class time.

Through a series of creative sessions, The Riddler in Residence will explore with the three groups how the inventive use of words springs from *The Exeter Book*. They will support participants to develop their own creativity, drawing on *The Exeter Book* as the inspiration for new writing, spoken words or performance.

Creative commission

We are interested in your creative response to this unique opportunity and seek a Riddler in Residence who can uncover and transform stories from their own perspective. For the celebration event on 21st March, we will invite the Riddler to perform a short piece inspired by their residency, alongside some of the young people they have worked with.

The nature of this commissioned piece can be discussed during the interview process. We are open to your ideas and will support the selected candidate to produce this piece of creative work during their time as Riddler in Residence. We invite you to tell us how you will respond to this commission to produce a piece of work or performance as a lasting legacy and a stage in your journey as a writer.

For some initial inspiration, here are links to *The Exeter Book* and some of the more recent creative projects it has inspired, particularly since Exeter was announced as a UNESCO City of Literature:

<https://theexeterbook.exeter.ac.uk/>
<https://theriddleages.bham.ac.uk/>
<https://www.doubleelephant.org.uk/riddle-57>
<https://www.chriswhitepoet.com/post/the-whale>

Events and legacy

We will introduce our selected Riddler at a launch event in late January.

The residency will culminate in a celebratory showcase public performance. Self-selecting participants will have the chance to read their work alongside the Riddler's own new work from the residency. We will invite friends and family to be part of the audience for this event, which we will simultaneously live stream.

A project film will profile the residency and the creative work, ensuring that it is widely shared and providing a lasting legacy.

Residency terms

Fee - The Riddler in Residence will be contracted for a fixed fee of £4,200 (based on a total of 15 days, at a day rate of £280). Reasonable travel expenses may be claimed in addition.

Launch - A launch event in late January will introduce the Riddler and their work.

Workshops - The majority of the workshop activity with the three groups will take place during the month of February and early March

Showcase - The showcase event marking the end of the residency will take place at the Chapter House of Exeter Cathedral on 21st March, to mark UNESCO World Poetry Day.

Covid restrictions – the residency will comply with all relevant Covid-19 restrictions. Should “lockdown” restrictions be in place, the terms / dates of the residency will be reviewed in consultation with the Arts Council and the Riddler in Residence.

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. Please also include a writing CV, with full details of your writing and publishing record.

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

The closing date for writer applications is midnight on Sunday 9th January 2022

Candidates selected for interview will be notified on or before Wednesday 12th January

Interviews will take place at Exeter Cathedral on Friday 21st January. We hope that these interviews will be in person. However, if Covid restrictions are in place, they may be online

Literature Works is a registered charity and Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation supporting creative writing and the development of writers and readers of all ages, from all walks of life in South West England. We prioritise inclusion, diversity and access - championing the power of poetry, story, writing and reading. We provide information, news and resources via our website and on social media. www.literatureworks.org.uk

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