



ESSENTIEL
ANTWERP

Sale: up to -50%

Further markdowns

Support the Guardian

Fund independent journalism with £12 per month

Support us →

Print subscriptions

Search jobs

Sign in

UK

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle



The Guardian

UK UK politics Education Media Society Law Scotland Wales Northern Ireland

The Northern
Leeds

This article is more than 12 years old

Literature festival puts Northern town on national map

It might only be small but historic Morley is welcoming assorted superheroes plus Stuart Maconie and Polly Toynbee for a fortnight of literary fun. **John Baron** reports



Is it a plane? Is it a bird? No, it's Morley Literature Festival. Photograph: AP

Morley, a town to the south of **Leeds**, has always been rightly proud of its roots.

It was the birthplace of Herbert Henry Asquith, who was Prime Minister from 1908-1916 and mill owner and developer of Saltaire model village Sir Titus Salt.

Comedian Ernie Wise was also brought up around Railway Cottages in nearby East Ardsley (there's an interesting statue of him in Morley town centre). And now modern-day Morley is making the news for other reasons - its literature festival is growing in national reputation.

Now in its seventh year, the 10-day festival runs from 6-14 October and is packed full of talks, music, art and family events.

Advertisement



Big Blue Sale | Up To 20% Off

Explore · Sponsored

Book Now

The headline names for the festival include BBC 6 Music presenter Stuart Maconie, best-selling crime novelist Val McDermid and *Guardian* columnist Polly Toynbee, who will all be taking their turns on the main stage of Morley Town Hall, along with former Joy Division and New Order member Peter Hook.

Also appearing at different venues will be Newsnight presenter Gavin Esler, ITV royal correspondent Tim Ewart and former Inspiral Carpets frontman Tom Hingley.

The winner of the 2008 Northern Art Prize, Paul Rooney, will create a new video piece to be screened from an empty shop window in the town centre, blurring elements of fact and fiction relating to the history of Morley. Festival director Jenny Harris says:

“We hope there is something for every kind of reader in the festival - whether you're into sport, sagas or comic books! The festival is going from strength to strength and putting Morley on the map nationally with its accessible programme and welcoming audiences.

Morley Literature Festival is also set bring a little of the fantastic to Leeds with Science Fiction and Superheroes, a panel event set to plumb the depths of two genres.

The panel features rising star Adam Christopher (*Empire State*, *Seven Wonders*), seasoned comics writer David Hine (*Batman*, *X-Men*, *Bulletproof Coffin*), local SF powerhouse Justina Robson (*Living Next Door to the God of Love*, the *Quantum Gravity* series) and fantasy writer turned comics scribe turned superhero chronicler Samit Basu (*Turbulence*, the *GameWorld* trilogy).

Mark E Johnson, curator of the event, says:

“Leeds has always had a strong comics community, with three comic shops and events such as *Leeds Alt Comics Fair* and the world-class festival *Thought Bubble*.

See the Morley Literature Festival programme or event Facebook page. For more information on the Festival, [check their website here](#).

Explore more on these topics

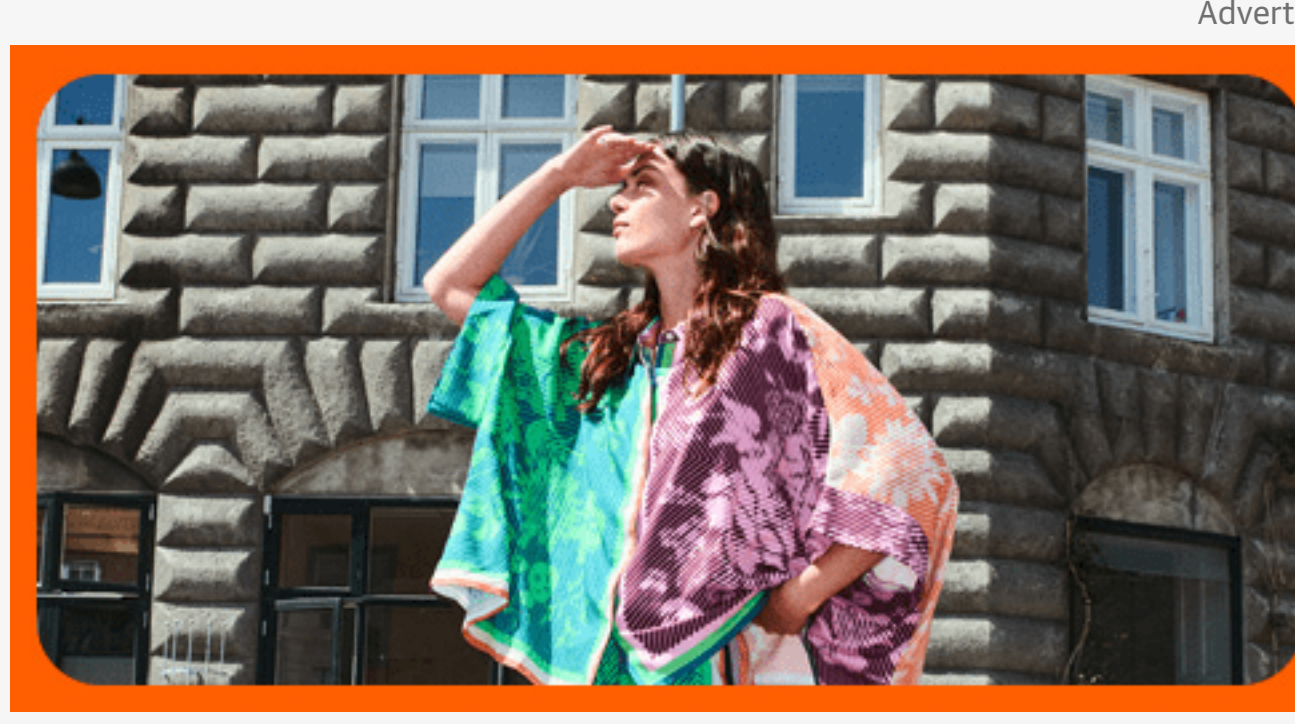
Leeds The Northern Festivals (Culture) Festivals (Travel) Superman

Comics and graphic novels Science fiction books blogposts

Share

Reuse this content

Advertisement



ESSENTIEL
ANTWERP

Sale: up to -50%

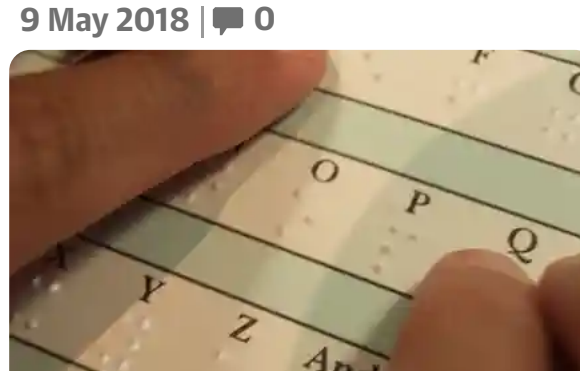
Further markdowns

The Northern



From the archive:
National Library for the
Blind needs more
money - May 1918

9 May 2018 | 0



Strong cases for and
against Sunday
cinemas - archive, 1932

18 Apr 2018 | 7



Last of Manchester's
cart horses auctioned -
archive, 1963

17 Apr 2018 | 1



Train passengers left
without dining-car
facilities due to strike
archive, 1959

26 Oct 2017 | 11



More from
Headlines



UK politics live

Southport killer will be
treated as a terrorist in
jail, Yvette Cooper tells
MPs

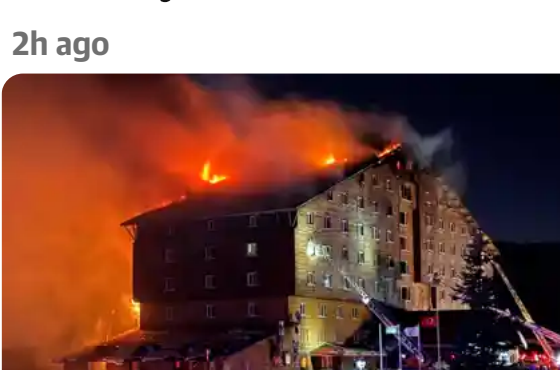
22m ago | 3802



Turkey

At least 66 people dead
and 51 hurt after fire at
ski resort hotel in
Turkey

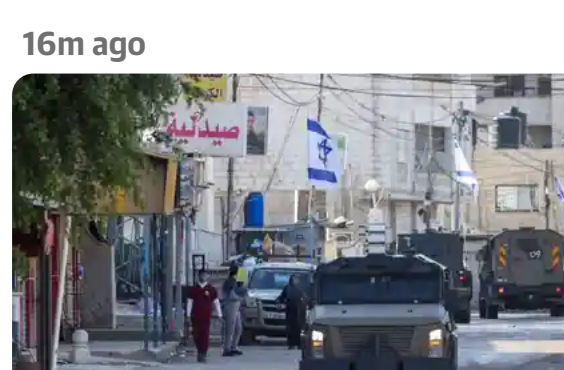
2h ago



Middle East crisis live

Eight killed in Israeli
raid on West Bank, say
health officials

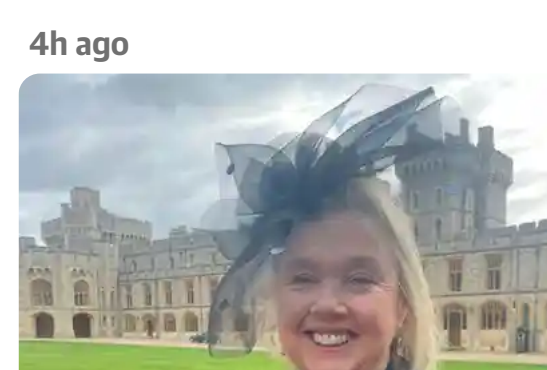
16m ago



Television

Pauline Quirke, Birds
of a Feather star, living
with dementia

4h ago



Comments (...)

Sign in or create your
Guardian account to join the
discussion

Most
viewed

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

UK UK politics Education Media Society Law Scotland Wales Northern Ireland

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

Original reporting and incisive analysis,
direct from the Guardian every
morning

Sign up for our email →

About us
Help
Complaints &
corrections
SecureDrop
Work for us

Privacy policy
Cookie policy
Terms &
conditions
Contact us

All topics
All writers
Modern Slavery
Act
Tax strategy
Digital newspaper
archive
Facebook
YouTube
Instagram
LinkedIn
Newsletters

Advertise with us
Guardian Labs
Search jobs
Patrons

Back to top

