



## ICELAND IN EXETER: writer in residence information pack MARCH 2019

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Literature Works is delighted to announce a Writer-in-Residence opportunity for an Icelandic writer of crime fiction to visit Exeter, county town of Devon in South West England.

The residency will run for seven days during the period 26<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and is funded by a grant from the British Council. The selected writer will be engaged on a contractor/freelance basis as writer-in-residence for the term.

Literature Works is the literature development agency for South West England. Our mission is to support creative writing and the development of writers and readers of all ages, from all walks of life, in our region.

We have been commissioned by the Exeter Canal and Quay Trust to explore the potential of the Custom House, a Grade 1 listed building on Exeter Quayside, as a hub for literature, a place where all are welcomed to explore and enjoy the social, educational and wellbeing benefits of reading and writing. We are producing a short programme that is accessible and popular, in keeping with the relaxed atmosphere on the quayside in the summer. Our overall aim is to attract the broadest possible audience by demonstrating that literature has something for everyone.

Exeter has a history dating back 2,000 years; it is a cathedral city with acclaimed libraries and archives, a world-renowned university and an international airport with direct transport links. Devon is home to best-selling authors of global renown. Exeter was once the centre of international trade. There are historic trading links between Exeter and Reykjavik.

With the support of the British Council and the Icelandic Literary Centre, Literature Works invites applications from published writers of crime fiction [a popular genre known in UK as *Icelandic Noir*] this summer for a rewarding exchange of culture, words and creative writing.

### Residency terms

The writer in residence will be contracted to be in Exeter for a period of 7 days during the period of our first summer programme at the Custom House, which runs from the last week in June to the first week in August. The selected author is invited to attend events, talks and workshops during their stay, as well as delivering two public events of their own:

- One event about writing crime fiction in the *Icelandic Noir* mode
- One 'Meet the Author' event at the Custom House for a general audience.

We would like to challenge the author to explore the history of Exeter and the Custom House, uncovering stories from their own cultural perspective. Following this and within one month from the end of their residency, we invite the author to write a short piece of fiction or creative non-fiction [up to 2,500 words] inspired by impressions and experiences of their residency in Exeter which Literature Works may publish on its website.

We would like the author to find time to develop their own writing and craft and stories, inspired by their short residency in our city.

Literature Works will arrange to welcome the author to Exeter and will provide a detailed itinerary and induction meetings, including the following individuals and groups:

- University of Exeter: departments of English and Creative Writing plus access to the University's special collections archive [holding collections from Agatha Christie, Daphne du Maurier, Charles Causley, William Golding inter alia]
- Exeter Central Library, home to Libraries Unlimited, the innovative Devon-wide library service
- Exeter Cathedral and Cathedral Library [which holds The Exeter Book, a 10<sup>th</sup> century anthology of Anglo-Saxon poetry]
- Exeter Culture
- Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery
- Exeter Phoenix
- Exeter Canal and Quay Trust – the development charity for Exeter Quayside.

#### **Residency package:**

The Writer in Residence will be paid a fee of £900 [which includes a fee for delivering two public events and a per diem sum for each of the 8 days of the residency]. In addition, the residency includes:

- Return flights Reykjavik – London Gatwick plus travel to/from airports
- Transfer by rail London Gatwick – Exeter return
- Self-catering accommodation at a central location in Exeter for the duration of the residency.

#### **How to Apply**

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

Closing date for receipt of applications is:

**5 pm on Friday, 10 May 2019**

Please email your applications to: [info@literatureworks.org.uk](mailto:info@literatureworks.org.uk) or post it to:  
Literature Works c/o The Arts Institute, University of Plymouth, Roland Levinsky Building, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA

Please note: candidates selected for interview will be notified on or before 17 May 2019. We intend to interview via Skype.