

Headingley LitFest 2020

I WOULDN'T START FROM HERE: THE SECOND GENERATION IRISH IN BRITAIN



**THURSDAY
5TH MARCH
19:30**

**Readings, Q and A, music,
refreshments.**

**This event is part of our
contribution to LEEDS
LIT FEST 2020**

**Headingley Community
Hub and Library
North Lane LS6 3HG**

Free – Pay What You Can

Eedited by Ray French, Moy McCrory and Kath McKay, this publication was described by **The Irish Times** as a 'brilliant, ground-breaking book... Hilarious, heartbreaking diaspora tales'.

'In the old joke, an Irish boomerang doesn't come back, it just sings about coming back' – Ian Duhig, poet. Ray French on his father: 'Our man to man talks went like this. Don't ever get married boy. If you feel lonely, get yourself a dog. Go on now, go out and play'. Meanwhile Kath McKay's mother sat, 'Surrounded by an electric fish, a plastic parrot that played Born Free...and the switch that turned on the electric dog'. Moy McCrory explores what authenticity and belonging mean to a writer, and reflects on a Catholic past with its imagery of saints and miracles.

This collection of fiction, poetry and memoirs is the first book about the second-generation Irish written by the second-generation Irish, rather than an academic or psychological paper about them. It reflects writers torn between two cultures: 'outsiders among the English, we were outsiders among the Irish too'- Ian Duhig.

The evening features **Ian Duhig, Ray French, Moy McCrory** and **Kath McKay**, who all live in Leeds, and who are pictured in that order in a photo by Vincent Burke. The event is organized in collaboration with the Irish Arts Foundation as part of the 2020 Irish History Month.



OURS: FOOTBALL DOES OUR GAME STILL BELONG TO US?

Passionate Burnley fan Lee Ingham (pictured) hopes to get fellow football fans in general onside with his new book about his undying love for the game and its heroes. He writes: 'It is about my team, my dad, my mates. However, it could easily be about you, because the game is ours. The book holds up a mirror to our world of football and asks whether football still belongs to us. If so, what can we do to keep it ours?'

FRIDAY
6TH MARCH
19:30

**This event is part of our
contribution to LEEDS
LIT FEST 2020**

**New Headingley Club
St Michael's Road LS6 3BG**

Free - Pay What You Can



When childhood
sweethearts meet again...

skybluepink

Written and directed
by Ray Brown

featuring

Jem Dobbs
and
Maggi Stratford



Sunday 8th March
THE NEW HEADINGLEY CLUB
St Michael's Road
LS6 3BJ

PLAY PREMIERE: SKYBLUEPINK WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY RAY BROWN

On the scrap heap, engineer Mal has lost everything: wife, job, house, self respect. He demonstrates luxury tat to those who can afford it.

Rich widow Anne is lonely in a meaningless world of electronic guard dog, imaginary mother, and Vlado the vodka bottle.

Childhood sweethearts, they meet by chance and begin a life-changing journey of shocking truths, happy memories, and increasing intoxication.

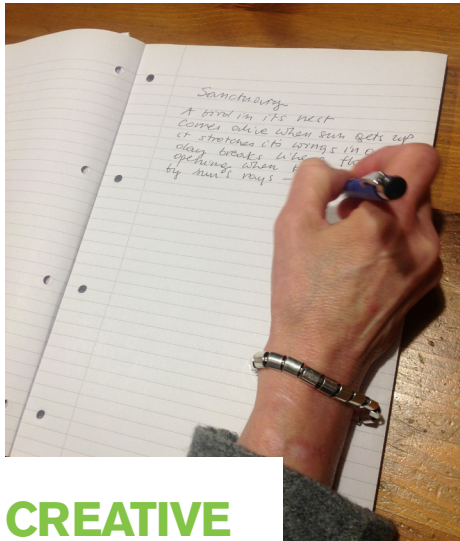
Written and directed by Ray Brown, featuring Jem Dobbs and Maggi Stratford, this laughter and tears play shines a light on desperate lives and illuminates late 20th century Britain.

**SUNDAY
8TH MARCH
19:30**

**This event is part of our
contribution to LEEDS
LIT FEST 2020**

Tickets £6





CREATIVE WRITERS

**TUESDAY
10TH MARCH
11:00 – 13:00**

**Heart Centre (Shire Oak Hall)
Bennett Road LS6 3HN**

**Free entry – no tickets for
this event. Donations for
refreshments.**

Tickets: Download or print from Leedslitfest.co.uk

Or ring 0113 376 0318

Published by Headingley LitFest wilcocks@ntlworld.com

Once again Headingley LitFest welcomes our two groups of local creative writers to a not-to-be missed performance of pieces of their work. Poems, prose, observation and fiction, personal anecdotes that range from the descriptive to the poignant, the profound and the amusing.

Headingley Creative Writers meet under the guidance of experienced tutor Liz McPherson; the Osmondthorpe Hub writers work with their new creative writing tutor Karen Hush. Both teachers have a strong commitment to helping release the inner writing spirit, personal and profound, from writers who come from all stages of life.

Both groups have chosen strong and engaging themes: Headingley are working on 'Sanctuary' and Osmondthorpe on 'A Special Place'.

As one said, "The final performance of our work is just the icing on the cake. We thought it was daunting; now we really look forward to it as an inspiring recognition of the work that we share."

Talking about icing - home-made cake and hot drinks will be available from around 12.30pm when the performances conclude.

Just turn up – free entry. Donations requested for refreshments.