A world class festival at the heart of Herne Hill! Now in its third year, ‘Stepping Into Stories’ is bouncing back for 2022 and we hope to see you there!

Programme:
Find out more about the public events we’re offering throughout the Festival — for children and grown ups - as well as lots more information about Stepping Into Stories at: stationhallhernehill.org/stepping-into-stories

Booking:
Tickets must be pre-booked via the Station Hall website. Our ticket price is £6 per child, with one accompanying adult attending for free. Concessions are available on all events to make sure price is never a barrier to you coming along — please email steppingintostories@gmail.com to find out more.

Competition:
We will be running our children’s story-making competition again for 2022 with a theme of ‘Bouncing Back!’. Prizes will be presented by the amazing Chloë Inkpen and we look forward to receiving lots of children’s entries. Find out how to enter at: stationhallhernehill.org/stepping-into-stories

Many thanks to The Half Moon, The Florence, and 198 Contemporary Arts & Learning for their support of the festival.

Our local, multi-award winning children’s bookshop, Tales on Moon Lane, will be running a pop-up shop throughout the Festival, where you will be able to purchase copies of all our featured titles. Book signings will be available after each event.

We will be following social distancing requirements closely and will contact all attendees with guidance shortly before the Festival to ensure we keep everybody COVID safe.

With thanks to the Arts Council for their generous support of this festival.
Tuesday 1 February

**Andrew Simms**

Contagious Tales: 22 Modern Folk Tales in the Wake of the Pandemic & Climate Crisis

**7:30pm**

**198  Contemporary Arts & Learning, SE24 0JT**

Age 16+  90 mins Fully accessible venue

*Contagious Tales* turns our troubled times into modern folk tales that shine a light on how we got here and illuminate the way ahead. With contributors ranging from leading earth scientists and economists, to playwrights and poets — including award-winning BBC dramatist Sarah Woods; author, Anita Roy; political economist, writer and campaigner, Andrew Simms; leading climate scientist, Prof Bill McGuire; and historian, Nick Robins. Expect a lively evening that will launch the book and kick off our public programme, mixing storytelling with live music.

Wednesday 2 February

**Thiago de Moraes** Drawing Myths and Monsters

**4pm  Station Hall, SE24 0JW**

Age 7+  30 mins

Travel back in time to tell stories and draw bonkers scenes with your favourite characters, heroes, gods and creatures from the past. Lots of live drawing and the chance to see Caesar running from a giant gnome riding a pig.

**Getting Your Book to the Shelves**

**Maria Tunney** (Senior Commissioning Editor, Walker Books); **Robert Snuggs** (Managing Director, Bounce Sales & Marketing Ltd); **Helen Boyle** (Literary & Illustration Agent, Pickled Ink)

**7:30pm  Station Hall, SE24 0JW**

Age 16+  90 mins

Join our expert panel to discover key industry insights about how to turn a concept into a saleable book that will excite commissioning editors, attract agents, and peek the interest of booksellers, keen to place it on competitive highstreet shelves. Packed with practical advice from leading perspectives, this session is for anyone interested in entering the children's book market.
Thursday 3 February

**Jane Porter** Tiny Penguins and the New Baby  
4pm  Station Hall, SE24 0JW  
Age 5+  90 mins  
Have you ever spotted any tiny penguins hiding in your home? Come to this playful session to hear how they helped little Gertie make friends with her new baby brother. Then make your own tiny penguins to take home.

**Life-Changing Libraries**  
Catherine Millar (Managing Director, Reading for Pleasure) & Emily Drabble (Head of Children’s Book Promotion & Prizes, BookTrust)  
7:30pm  Station Hall, SE24 0JW  
Age 16+  90 mins  
Emily and Catherine will be talking about their work with Cressida Cowell on her ‘Life-Changing Libraries’ campaign to push for ring-fenced budgets in schools for books and libraries. Come and hear how the project is going, and explore how you can help schools to develop a library that will enable all children to flourish!  
#lifechanginglibrary
Friday 4 February

**Be Not Afeard** Collar & Cuffs Co
4pm  Station Hall, SE24 0JW
Age 2+  60 mins

The isle is full of twangling sounds, paint and play; it feels scary at first, but you can learn to be confidently curious. Join a musical sensory telling of ‘The Tempest’ suitable for 0-7s, and fully inclusive for those with special needs, with multi award-winning Collar & Cuffs Co.

**Empowering and Inclusive Books for your Kids**

**Steve Anthony** (award-winning writer and illustrator), **Alexandra Strick** (Author and co-founder of Inclusive Minds), **Zoey Dixon** (Development Librarian, Lambeth Libraries)

7.30pm  Station Hall, SE24 0JW
Age 16+  60 mins

Books can change lives and inspire children. And it’s so important that they reflect their readers and help to empower those readers as well. Join our expert panel to explore how to create empowering books for children and how to get those books into the hands of those who might most benefit from reading them
Saturday 5 February

**Loretta Schauer** *CinderGorilla*

10am Station Hall, SE24 0JW  
Age 3+ 45 mins  
Join Loretta for some disco-tastic dance themed drawing adventures, and meet the heroine of her latest book. *CinderGorilla* is the second hilarious tale in a fun-filled fairytale series with empowering messages for young readers.

**Rashmi Sirdeshpande**

Never Show A T-Rex a Book and Never Show A Stegasaurus a Sum  
11am Lupino Room, The Florence, SE24 0NG  
Age 3+ 45 mins  Fully accessible venue  
What would happen if you taught a T-Rex how to read? What if you taught a Stegosaurus how to do sums? Come and find out in this ROARSOME workshop with author Rashmi Sirdeshpande. Expect storytelling and lots of dinosaur-shaped shenanigans!

**Ross Montgomery** *The Midnight Guardians*

12pm Station Hall, SE24 0JW  
Age 7+ 45 mins  
Join Ross to design your own imaginary friends and talk about how he created the book - including research about real-life bombings in Herne Hill during WWII.

**Dom Conlon** *This Rock, That Rock*

1pm Lupino Room, The Florence, SE24 0NG  
Age 5+ 45 mins  Fully accessible venue  
Discover the beauty of the moon and take your very own giant leaps on it with the poetry of Dom Conlon as he takes you on a personal journey which will inspire you to write your very own astro poetry.
Join award-winning author and illustrator Chloë Inkpen as she introduces you to Fred, a naughty pup who destroys everything and won’t stop running away. This high-energy, interactive session will have the littlest readers joining in with actions and sounds. Followed by:

**Come along to celebrate the ‘Stepping Into Stories’ competition entrants and hear Chloë announce who has won a prize!**

3pm  Station Hall, SE24 0JW
All ages  30 mins


**Patrice Lawrence  Diver’s Daughter**

3.30pm  Station Hall, SE24 0JW
Age 9+  45 mins

Come and hear Patrice tell you about Jacques Francis, the African deep sea diver who rescued riches from sunken sailing ships in Tudor times. Who are the other people from the past who need stories? Let’s try and write a story about them together.
Sunday 6 February

**Chitra Soundar**

* Sona Sharma Looking After Planet Earth

**10am  Station Hall, SE24 0JW**

**Age 5-8  45 mins**

Sona Sharma lives in a joint family in Chennai. Chitra Soundar, author of the Sona Sharma series will tell you why Sona wants to look after Planet Earth and how. Also, learn to write an acrostic poem with Sona about the climate crisis.

**Lucy Reynolds & Jenna Herman** *We Are Family*

**10.30am**

**The Workshop, The Half Moon, SE24 9HU**

**Age 3+  45 mins**

There are billions of creatures on this earth, but there is only one YOU! Join Lucy and Jenna to celebrate the myriad ways in which young grow up on our wild, wonderful planet and the journey we all take to find our unique place in the world...

**Chloë Perrin** *His Royal Hopeless*

**11.30am  Station Hall, SE24 0JW**

**Age 5-8  45 mins**

Using His Royal Hopeless as a guide, Chloë will explore all the different kinds of villains - and all the best ways of defeating them!

**Tom Mitchell** *Escape From Camp Boring*

**12pm The Workshop, The Half Moon, SE24 9HU**

**Age 10+  45 mins**

The author of *How to Rob a Bank* and *That Time I Got Kidnapped* talks about trying to make readers laugh with his latest children’s novel, *Escape from Camp Boring*, coping when your phone’s out of battery, and the time his dad got locked in a bank.
Alex Milway  
*Big Sky Mountain*  
**12.30pm Station Hall, SE24 0JW**  
Age 6+ 45 mins  
Come visit the wonder that is *Big Sky Mountain* with Alex Milway! There'll be live drawing, some very silly songs, and a whole lot of fun.

Louie Stowell  
*Loki, A Bad God’s Guide to Being Good*  
**2pm Station Hall, SE24 0JW**  
Age 8+ 45 mins  
Packed full of humour, join author and Norse myth superfan, Louie Stowell, to hear all about her new book and discover fun tips on comic-style drawing, acting like a god, and pranking like Loki!

Alex Wheatle  
*The Humiliations of Welton Blake*  
**3.30pm Station Hall, SE24 0JW**  
Age 9+ 45 mins  
Welton Blake’s life is about to go very, very wrong when hilarity follows disaster in this sharp-witted tale of the trials of pre-teen life, from award-winning and critically acclaimed author, Alex Wheatle.