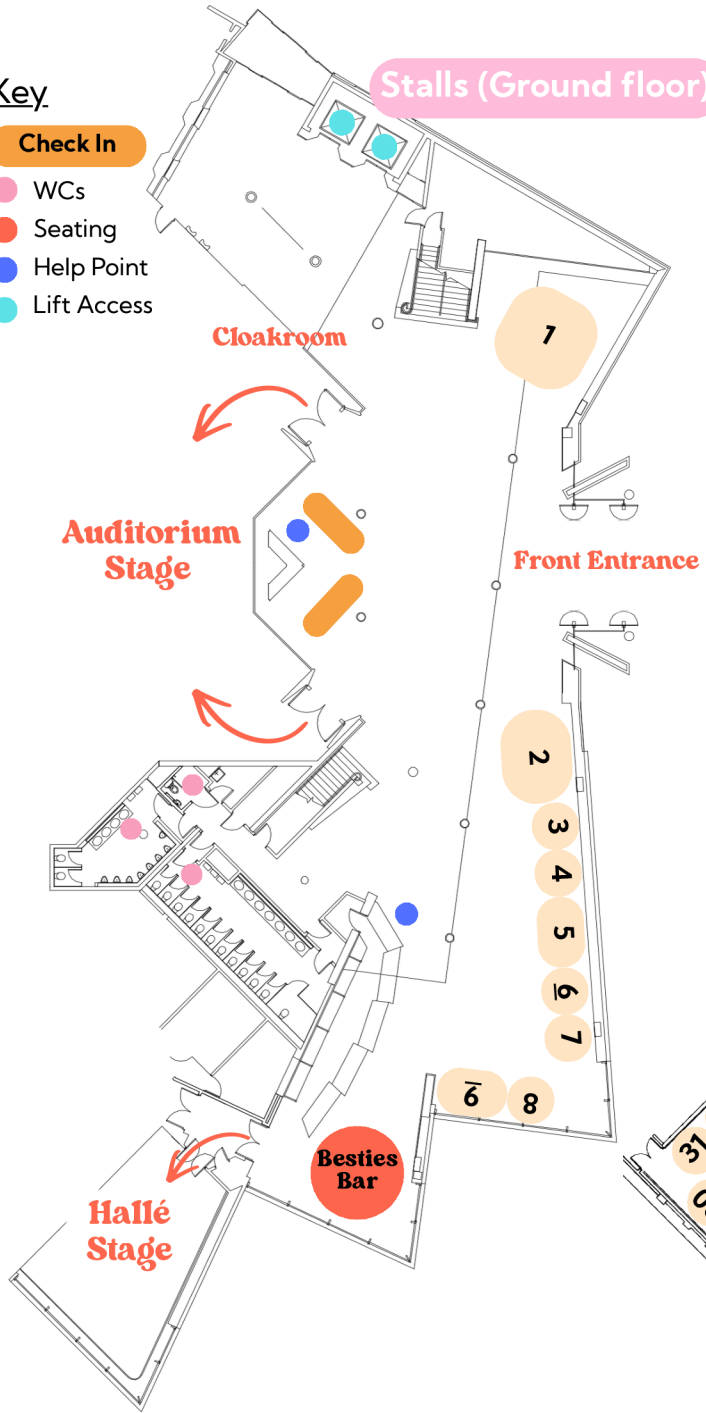


Fiction Fest UK 2026

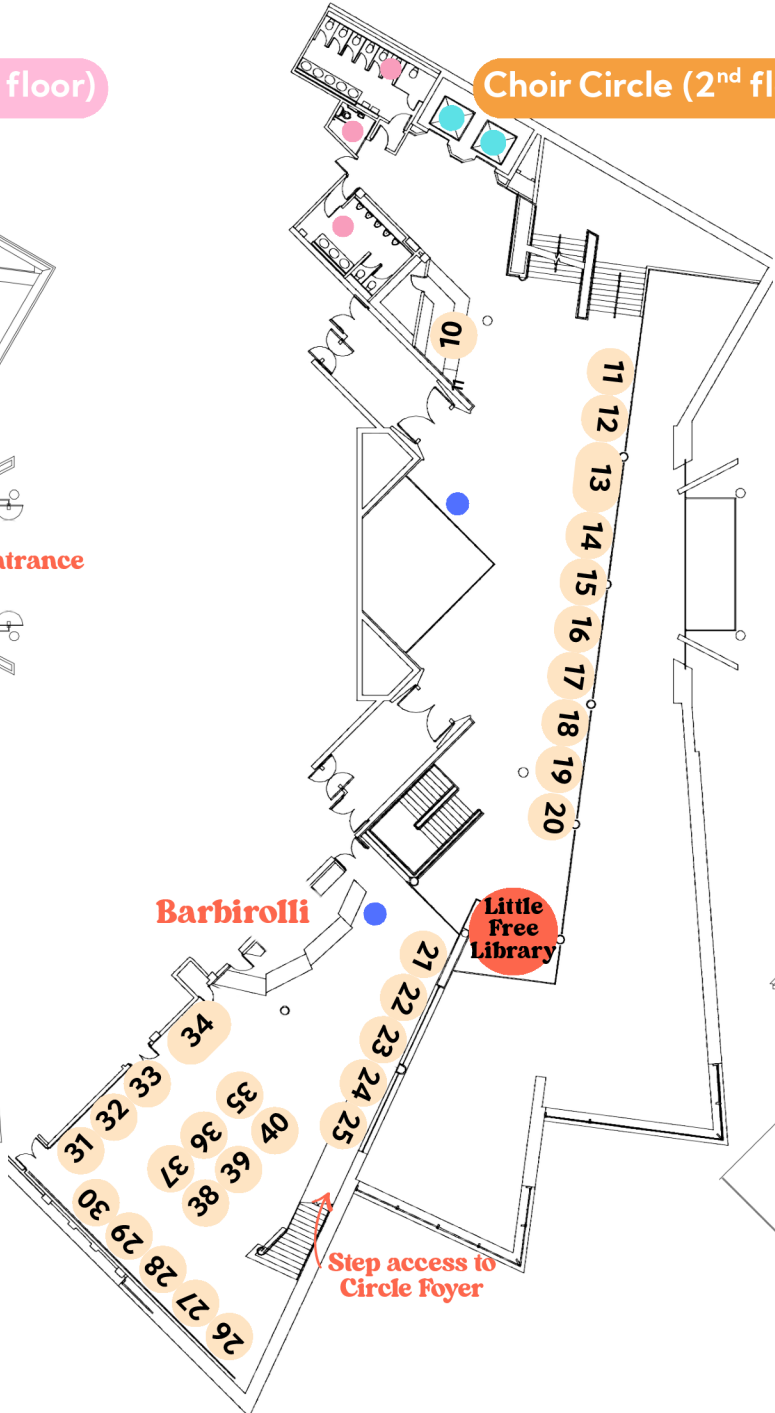
Key

- Check In
- WCs
- Seating
- Help Point
- Lift Access

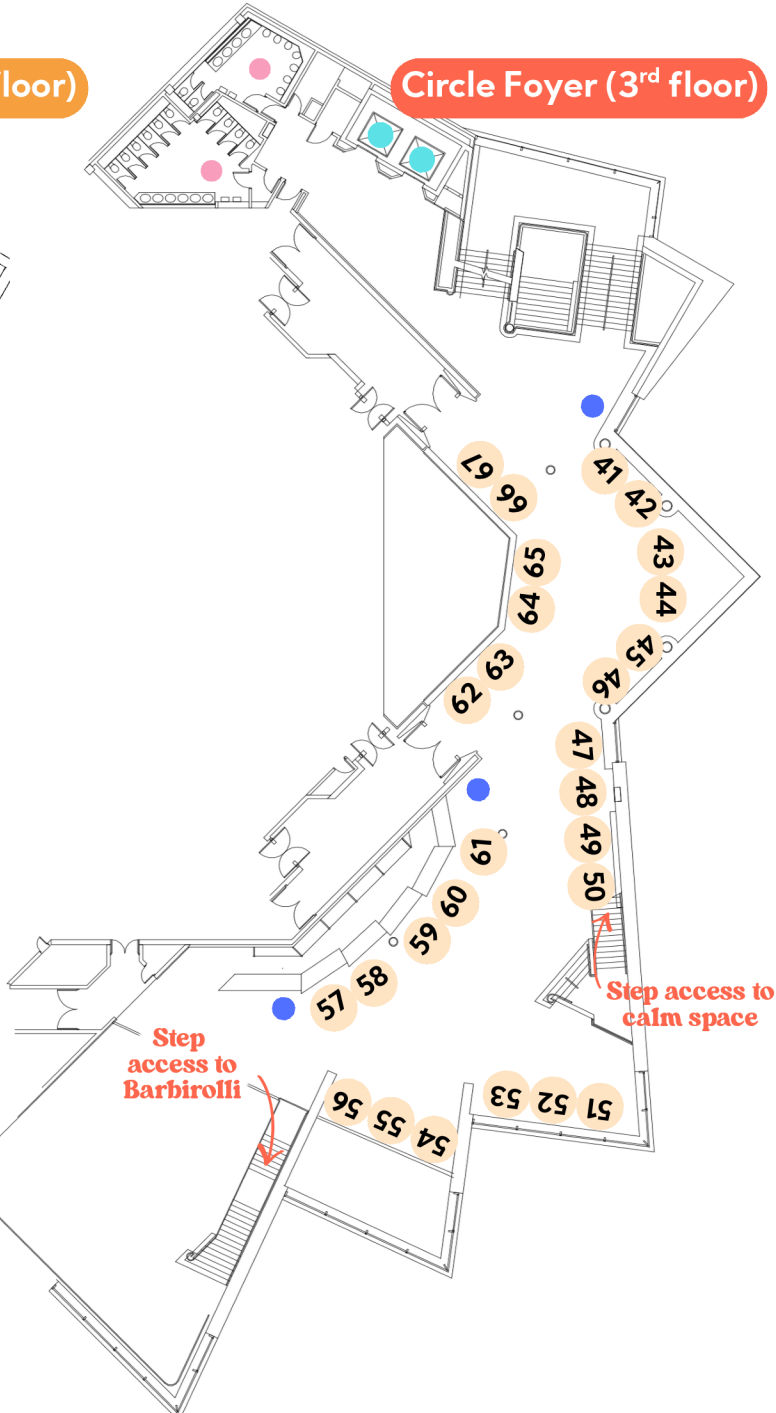
Stalls (Ground floor)



Choir Circle (2nd floor)



Circle Foyer (3rd floor)



So who's where?

Stalls (Ground floor)

- 1 The Mysterious Bookcase**
Partner Bookshop
- 2 Page & Wick**
Headline Sponsor
- 3 Tamara Price**
Author
- 4 K.L. Taylor Lane**
Author
- 5 Hodder & Stoughton**
Publisher
- 6 Storm Lomax**
Author
- 7 Emily Harvey Art**
Sponsor
- 8 Monique Medved**
Author
- 9 Wish Upon Threads**
Silver Sponsor

Choir Circle (2nd floor)

- 10 FFUK**
Event Merch
- 11 Abbie Eaton**
Author
- 12 Literature Stitches**
Sponsor
- 13 Whisporia**
Silver Sponsor
- 14 Letizia Lorini**
Author
- 15 G.N Wright**
Author
- 16 Georgia Cook**
Author

- 17 A. D. Jones**
Author
- 18 Malone Design**
Sponsor
- 19 Emily Rennie**
Author
- 20 Fern Cole**
Author
- 21 Good Girls Book Club**
Sponsor
- 22 Philippa Young**
Author
- 23 Sloane Maddern**
Author
- 24 Maggie Grant**
Author
- 25 Laura Carter**
Author
- 26 Rachael Chadwick**
Author
- 27 Jessica Huntley**
Author
- 28 KzBookz**
Sponsor
- 29 Lauren Dedroog**
Author
- 30 Heba Al-Wasity**
Author
- 31 K.J Reed**
Author
- 32 Harvey Oliver Baxter**
Author
- 33 Stephanie Alves**
Author

- 34 Scholastic**
Publisher
- 35 Tales & Tomes**
Sponsor
- 36 Aimee Clinton**
Author
- 37 Meg Edwards**
Author
- 38 Francesca McMahon**
Author
- 39 Megan Jones**
Author
- 40 Camilla Andrew**
Author

Circle Foyer (3rd floor)

- 41 Shassii**
Author
- 42 Heidi Hinda Chadwick**
Author
- 43 Patchwork Malone**
Sponsor
- 44 Willow**
Sponsor
- 45 Janisha Boswell**
Author
- 46 Jade Church**
Author
- 47 New Chapters**
Sponsor
- 48 G.E. Smith**
Author
- 49 Bookscape Books**
Sponsor

- 50 Shannon Van Velzen**
Author
- 51 Clare Sager**
Author
- 52 Literary Luxe**
Sponsor
- 53 B.A. Pepper**
Author
- 54 Kate Alexandra**
Author
- 55 Rebecca J Caffery**
Author
- 56 Shalini Abeysekara**
Author
- 57 Illumicrate**
Sponsor
- 58 Anavrin Jay**
Author
- 59 R A Sandpiper**
Author
- 60 Holly Jukes**
Author
- 61 Speaker Drop In**
Authors
- 62 Zoraida Mendes**
Author
- 63 Dharshaini G**
Author
- 64 Lily X/Chaos Davie**
Author
- 65 Books for a Cause**
Sponsor
- 66 The Willoughby Bookshelf**
Sponsor
- 67 Pinky Creates**
Sponsor

11:10 – 11:15

Welcome to FFUK '26!
With Ellen, Liv & Jess

11:20 – 12:00

Who's That Lurking in the Shadows, Daddy?

Crafting the 'perfect' or not so perfect MMC. Can our devoted but damaged princes evolve past their fairytale archetypes and is it even them that we want anymore?

Liv Cormack-Widdop **Shalini Abeysekara** **Clare Sager**
Sarah Mughal Rana **Marilize Loxton** **B A Pepper**

12:10 – 12:50

Two Girls, One Bed

How female relationships and friendships are portrayed in Fantasy novels. From love rivals to just roommates, the evolution of female characters and how finally, we're allowing them to be more.

Shelf Indulgence Podcast
Abbie Eaton **Ellie Pilcher** **Eliza Chan** **Ellis Hunter**

13:10 – 13:50

Monsters in the Margins

How authors create evils that can reflect our human fears. How do speculative worlds allow us to confront the anxieties we cannot name in our own? And why the most compelling of monsters are more than just fangs and claws.

Adam Christopher **Ren Hutchings**
Melissa Welliver **Gareth L Powell** **Gemma Amor**

14:00 – 14:40

Does it Spark Queer Joy?

The long awaited death of tragedy and rise of HEAs in Queer Literature. A conversation about representation, resilience, and balancing the acknowledgment of historical pain whilst embracing narratives of hope.

Courtney Smyth **Frances White** **Natasha Siegel**
Jack Strange **Rebecca Caffery** **Rose Black**

14:50 – 15:30

Hot Jobs and Heartthrobs

The profession of a love interest and how it makes them just so irresistible. Does the career shape the character appeal? Is the seduction done before the first word? Competence kinks to uniforms, and power dynamics to emotional availability.

Tessa Bickers **Rufaro Faith Mazarura**
Maggie Eckersley **Bianca Gillam** **Georgia Stone**

15:40 – 16:20

Trust No One & Twist the Knife

Unlocking the power of a great twist and how to keep the reader guessing. Planting clues in plain sight without giving the game away and the delicate balance between betrayal and satisfaction.

Kerry Whittle **Sarah Yarwood-Lovett** **L M Chilton**
Ravena Guron **Alis Hawkins** **Courtney Smyth**

16:30 – 17:10

Mental Health in Fiction

Getting it right, avoiding stereotypes and why imperfect characters matter. Where is the line between representation and reduction? And why do flawed, struggling characters always resonate so deeply with readers?

Josh Silver **Danielle Jawando**
Emily Rennie **India-Rose Bower** **Sophia Vahdati**

17:20 – 18:00

We're Going to Need a Bigger Trope

The rise and flow of sought after tropes and ones that should be popular next. How the evolution of reader appetites can shape the shelves, the rise of influence from social media and the tropes that we don't know we want yet.

Nadia El-Fassi **Heba Al-Wasity** **Tori Bovalino**
A. Y. Chao **Kate Dylan** **Venetia Constantine**

11:20

Stage Opens

Come grab a seat!

11:30 - 12:05

Content, Community and Success

Booktok & Bookstagram: ARCs, creative content ideas, burnout, celebrating success and more. Discussing how online book communities have reshaped the publishing landscape and exploring the evolving relationship between creators, authors, and publishers.

Erin (@erinsnextread) **Shannon (@ridiculusreads)**

Emily (@thebreakfast.bookclub)

12:15 - 12:55

Self Published A-Z

Insight into the work undertaken for self publishing from self published authors and their individual journeys. How the work extends beyond writing the book and hitting upload and the many hats you must wear.

Laura Carter **Monique Medved** **Anavrin Jay**

Danielle Lauren **Philippa Young**

13:05 - 13:45

If They Were Real, We'd Dump Them

The fictional partners we excuse but why? Examining the behaviors we tolerate and romanticize in fiction: jealousy, manipulation, possessiveness, and other red flags. How do genre, narrative structure, and character archetypes influence our perception?

Sophie Jo **Rachael Chadwick** **Starlin Marot**

14:15 - 14:45

Pitch Perfect (Open Mic)

One minute to talk us through the ideas for your story or the blurb for your current WIP. Talk us through the themes, tropes and plot of your work in progress, gaining an instant fan club from the audience!

You!?

14:55 - 15:40

The Rise of Cosy Fantasy

And the need for it, especially in this current climate. A one on one chat with Sangu Mandanna about the genre that offers comfort, charm, and hope—an escape into worlds where friendship, home, and small triumphs matter as much as epic battles.

Nadia El-Fassi **Sangu Mandanna**

15:50 - 16:30

Split Personalities

Horror, Identity, and the Genre's Multiple Selves. From haunted houses to body horror, from doppelgängers to unreliable narrators, exploring the genre and the self in all its unsettling multiplicity.

Amy McCaw **Harvey Oliver Baxter** **Jonathan Sims**

Amy Jane Stewart **Heidi Hinda Chadwick**

16:40 - 17:20

Romanticising the Publishing Industry

BTS of the enigmatic industry with an eye on Romance. An exclusive chat with publicity and marketing from Hodder, at how campaigns are shaped, connections built between authors and readers, and launching titles into the spotlight.

Georgia Stone **Charlea Charlton** **Kallie Townsend**

Please be aware that space in the Halle Room is very limited so all panels on this stage will be strictly limited and first come, first served.