

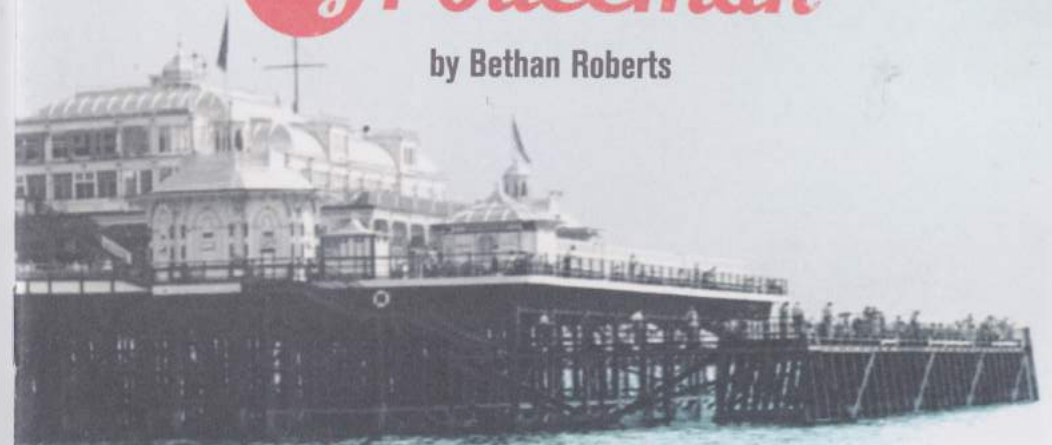
ONE CITY. ONE BOOK. A THOUSAND CONVERSATIONS.

Brighton & Hove **CITY READS** **2012**

15 September – 7 October

my *Policeman*

by Bethan Roberts



CITYREADS.CO.UK

Information

Tickets

Brighton Dome Ticket Office
(Monday – Saturday 10am – 6pm)

In person: 29 New Road, Brighton

By telephone: 01273 709709

Online: brightonticketshop.com

(booking fees apply)

Tickets are not required for Free events (unless indicated) – but arrive early to ensure a seat.

Where?

The Old Market in Hove forms the hub of this year's live programme though there are events across the city.

The Old Market, 11a Upper Market Street, Hove. Visit theoldmarket.com for full directions. Nearby buses are the 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 5, 5A, 5B, 6, 20X, 24, 25, 46, 49, 49A, 81 and the N25 (night bus). Visit buses.co.uk for timetables.

City Reads and Book Guild

Publishing Short Story Award

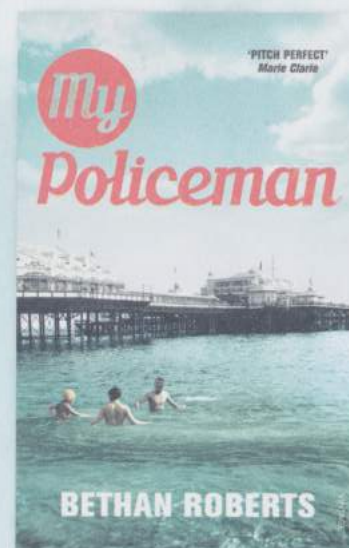
Judges: Carol Biss (MD of Book Guild Publishing), Damian Barr (author & salonierre) and Bethan Roberts (chosen author for City Reads 2012). This very special competition boasts a fantastically generous prize of £1000 and is open to all. The winner will be presented with their prize at the closing event on Sunday 7 October. So get thinking, get inspired and get writing! For full details of word length, competition rules, etc visit bookguild.co.uk

City Reads at Brunswick Festival

City Reads will have a stall at this year's Brunswick Festival (18 & 19 August) – so come and say hello and find out how you can get involved. City Books is City Reads official bookseller. Visit their stall at every event in The Old Market.

Why this book?

My Policeman by Bethan Roberts



'*My Policeman* is a beautiful book – tender, truthful and deeply moving. I loved it.'

Paul Burston, author of *The Gay Divorcee*
(Time Out's Gay Reviewer)

City Reads is all about sharing our reading experience with others – think one giant citywide book group. Over the last seven years we've taken you on fictional journeys from Munich (*The Book Thief*) to Moscow (*From Russia with Love*), from Cornwall (*Rebecca*) to the Caribbean (*The Long Song*). Now, for the first time, we're fixing our literary gaze on our own shores as we invite you to

read Bethan Roberts' brilliant new novel *My Policeman*: a tender and tragic love triangle set in 1950s Brighton.

From the moment Marion first lays eyes on Tom she is smitten and determined to make him hers. But this dashing young policeman has another claim on his affections. Patrick, curator at Brighton Museum, is also besotted with Tom and opens up a world previously unknown to him. But in an age when those of 'minority status' were condemned by society and the law, Tom's immediate safety lies in the smokescreen of marriage. So the two lovers must share 'their policeman', until one breaks and three lives implode...

To help make the most of *your* reading experience, we've assembled a programme of events inspired by the book's themes and its local period setting. Join us as we turn the pages and celebrate Bethan Roberts' *My Policeman* together.

Enjoy the journey and happy city reading!

Sarah Hutchings, Artistic Director

City Reads would like to thank its:

FUNDERS AND PARTNERS



SPONSORS



SUPPORTERS



Thanks also to: Jo Brooks PR | The Old Market | Brighton Museum and the City Reads Team: Hannah Osmond, Vicky Tremain, Max Crisfield and Tom Bailey...and of course our wonderful City Reads volunteers.

Bethan Roberts in Conversation with Lynne Truss

'*My Policeman* is a beautifully written modern tragedy ... from page one I could not put this book down, and by the final chapters I was rationing the words.'

Andrew Kay, author and Creative Director – *The Latest*



Conclude your City Reads journey as Bethan Roberts takes centre stage for a live discussion of *My Policeman*... Find out what drew Bethan to the book's subject and themes. Discover the challenges of stepping back five decades into Brighton's past and the pleasures and pitfalls of assuming unfamiliar voices. If you've read the book, great. If you've joined a book group or discussed it with friends, even better: you'll be brimming with questions to put to Bethan. Or if you've come late to the party, and are simply itching to know more, that's fine too. Whatever your City Reads experience so far, join us as we celebrate the power and pleasure of reading – together.

Lynne Truss is a writer of journalism, drama, fiction and non-fiction. She is best known for her bestselling book *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*. Her career in radio includes four series of the comedy *Inspector Steine*, which is set in Brighton in the 1950s.

The winner of this year's Short Story Competition will be presented with their prize at this event.

Sun 7 Oct, 3pm, £8
The Old Market
Tickets: Brighton Dome Ticket Office (01273 709709)
brightonticketshop.com

Tales From The Spotted Dog

'From the faded glitter of The Argyle to the sexy seediness of The Spotted Dog, *My Policeman* skulks through the 50s Brighton underground gay scene like a rent boy in pursuit of a trick. Desperate love in a dismal age. I loved it...' Julie Burchill



Pull up a bar stool and put a shilling in the jukebox – it's opening time at The Spotted Dog. Back in the day, the backroom bar of this humble Brighton boozer was a favoured haunt among the town's more adventurous gay clientele. Now, five decades on, we're recreating the heyday of this notorious nightspot for three evenings of nostalgic entertainment.

There'll be performances and readings inspired by *My Policeman* plus drinks, music and more – all served up with a suitable dash of daring in this lovingly created facsimile of Brighton's famous 50s watering hole.

Candlelight. Log fire punching out too much heat. Leather armchairs. 'Stormy Weather' coming from the oriental boy on the piano...

My Policeman, Bethan Roberts

Tue 2 – Thu 4 Oct, Performances at 6.30pm and 9pm, £9
The Marlborough Theatre, 4 Princes Street, Brighton
Tickets: Brighton Dome Ticket Office (01273 709709)
brightonticketshop.com

Vintage Fair

Vintage bargains for discerning hipsters



Get your retro kicks and sate your appetite for all things vintage at this all-day celebration of 50s music, fashion and fads.

The consumer frenzy that accompanied the post-war boom spelled 'out with the old and in with the new' for young 50s fashionistas. New styles, new colours, new fabrics, new attitude! With vintage stalls selling clothes, furniture, accessories and homeware – plus on-site stylists for that essential period grooming – now you too can get fashioned up 50s style.



So roll up your sleeves, plump up your pompadour and get ready to rummage the rails at this one-stop vintage shopping spree.

Sat 6 Oct, 11am – 6pm, £2 (pay on the door) The Old Market

The Book Doctor *Laura Lockington*



Are you stuck in a rut with your reading regime? Want to branch out but don't know your Bond from your Balzac? A trip to the book doctor will pick you up from your literary low and send you off with your own personal reading remedy.

'Laura Lockington is a walking library.'

Damian Barr, author, salonierre

Sat 6 Oct, Surgery open, 2pm – 4pm, Free, The Old Market

1950s Make-up Masterclass

with Tasleen Carstairs



In post-war Britain a little bit of glamour went a long way. After all this was the age of the A-list movie maiden: think Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly and Marilyn Monroe. But what was their secret and how did the girl next door measure up to these period pinups?

Tasleen Carstairs has over 25 years of experience working internationally as a hair and make-up artist in film, theatre and fashion. Join her for this interactive two-hour masterclass on the secret art of looking good 50s style. Combines beauty tips and makeover magic with a dash of social history. Make-up, face-maps, mirrors and eyelashes supplied.

Sat 6 Oct, 11am – 1pm, £15

The Old Market
Tickets: Brighton Dome Ticket Office
(01273 709709)
brightonticketshop.com

Police Boxes & Picturehouses

a journey through 1950s Brighton with local historian Geoffrey Mead



My Policeman brilliantly evokes a bygone Brighton – of milk bars and trolleybuses, of police boxes and picturehouses. A time of the Regent Ballroom and the Black Rock Lido; of Gilbert Harding and Terence Rattigan. But how closely does this fictional portrait match up to real-life 50s Brighton?

Join Geoffrey Mead – local historian and landscape lecturer (University of Sussex) – as he explores the people, places and distinctive ambience of his native city during this iconic post-war decade. Delivered with customary brio and washed down with sumptuous afternoon tea, this is an appetising and entertaining slice of local history.

Sat 6 Oct, 4pm – 5pm, £10 (includes tea and cake)
The Old Market
Tickets: Brighton Dome Ticket Office
(01273 709709)
brightonticketshop.com

Dear Queer Diary

with Jonathan Kemp and
Clayton Littlewood
chaired by Suzi Feay



'Why write again? When I know that I must exercise caution ... Why write again? Because Patrick Hazlewood, thirty-four, has not given up.' *My Policeman*

Patrick in Bethan Roberts' *My Policeman* is compelled (at considerable personal risk) to 'commit my desires to paper'. In this special event, two contemporary gay writers explore and discuss this confessional compulsion.

Jonathan Kemp (*London Triptych*, *Twenty-Six*) is an award-winning novelist, short story writer, performer, DJ and creative writing teacher. Clayton Littlewood published his cult blog turned *London Paper* column as *Dirty White Boy: Tales of Soho* in 2008. Named 2009 *Gay Times* Book of the Year, it has since been turned into a West End play and spawned the recently published sequel *Goodbye to Soho*.

Thu 20 Sep, 7.30pm, £5 Waterstone's Brighton
Tickets: Brighton Dome Ticket Office
(01273 709709)
brightonticketshop.com

Film: Victim (12)



When successful barrister Melville Farr (Dirk Bogarde) uncovers a sinister blackmail ring against young gay men, he is determined to bring the blackmailers to justice, no matter the risk to his own reputation, career and marriage.

Notable in movie history for being the first English-language film to air the word 'homosexual', and for being banned in the US, this early 60s classic helped liberalise attitudes (and eventually laws) in a pre-Wolfenden Report Britain. (1961; 96mins)

Sat 15 Sep, 2pm
(Correct at time of going to print)
Adult £8.50 Concession £7.50 Member
£6.50 Child £5.50
Duke of York's Picturehouse
Tickets: picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/
duke_of_yorks
(0871 902 5728)

City Reads Book Quiz



How much do you know about books? Past books, present books, funny books, sober books, beach books, epic books, highbrow and lowbrow books? Whatever you've read, always meant to read, or simply bluffed your way through, come along and test your knowledge at the annual City Reads Book Quiz.

With questions on everything from genre fiction to literary classics, plus a dedicated round on this year's City Reads book, there's brain teasers aplenty for book lovers of all persuasions. This event always sells out, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Tue 25 Sep, 7.30pm - 9.30pm, £5
The Latest Music Bar (upstairs)
Tickets: Brighton Dome Ticket Office
(01273 709709)
brightonticketshop.com

Piers and Queers Walking Tour



'Awesome tour, highly recommended.' ***** Love Fringe

The Brighton of Bethan Roberts' *My Policeman* may be a far cry from today's 'gay capital of Europe', but even during the most conservative of eras the city-by-the-sea has been a sanctuary for people with alternative sexualities and gender identities.

This 80-min walking tour celebrates this rich history, introducing some of the remarkable characters whose achievements, bravery and infamy have helped shape modern gay Brighton. En route you'll also encounter some of the key locations in *My Policeman*. So pick up your paperback, pull on your walking shoes and hit the streets for a unique promenade through Brighton's LGBT past.

Wed 3 Oct, 6.30pm & Sat 6 Oct, 11am, £7
Meeting point: West Pier, Upper Promenade,
opposite Regency Square
Tickets: Brighton Dome Ticket Office
(01273 709709) brightonticketshop.com

Free City Reads Events

Sunday City Screenings

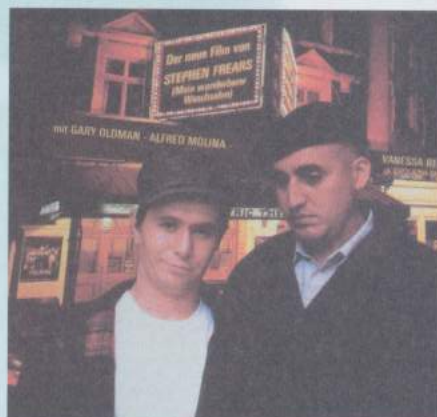
Places are limited. Arrive early to avoid disappointment. Contact (01273) 290800 for info.



The Naked Civil Servant (15)

This acclaimed television film of Quentin Crisp's autobiography turned the self-proclaimed 'stately homo of England' into an overnight celebrity. Staring a young John Hurt, it captured all the flamboyance, wit and courageous defiance that made Crisp one of the world's enduring gay icons and Britain's best-loved eccentrics. (1976; 77mins)

Sun 16 Sep, 1pm, Free, Jubilee Library



Prick Up Your Ears (18)

Starring Gary Oldman and co-written by Alan Bennett, Stephen Frears' follow-up to *My Beautiful Launderette* is an intimate and pitch-perfect human drama depicting the turbulent 16-year relationship between decadent playwright Joe Orton and his troubled lover Kenneth Halliwell. (1987; 111mins)

Sun 30 Sep, 1pm, Free, Jubilee Library



Maurice (15)

Based on E.M. Forster's posthumously published novella, this 1987 Merchant Ivory production is the coming-of-age tale of a young gay man set against the repressive society of Edwardian England. Starring James Wilby, Hugh Grant and Rupert Graves (1987; 140 mins).

Sun 23 Sep, 1pm, Free, Jubilee Library

Free City Reads Events

Memories are Made of This



Take a trip down memory lane – whether you were there or not – and rediscover 1950s Brighton through photographs, objects and period reminiscences. Bring along your memories and memorabilia and help create a unique Brighton & Hove exhibit inspired by this year's City Read – *My Policeman*. Or simply drop in for fine company, conversation and a complimentary cuppa. A prize draw will be held for free copies of *My Policeman* for you to read and book-cross.

Sat 15 Sep, 11am – 12.30pm,
Free – Patcham Library
Ladies Mile Rd, Brighton, 01273 296912.
Buses: 5 & 5A
Tue 18 Sep, 5pm – 7pm,
Free – Hove Library
182-186 Church Rd, Hove, 01273 296937.
Buses: 1, 1A, 20, 49, 49A, and 6
Sat 22 Sep, 11am – 12.30pm,
Free – Saltdean Library
Saltdean Lido, Saltdean, 01273 296920.
Buses: 12, 12a, 14, 27 and 27a
Sat 29 Sep, 11am – 12.30pm,
Free – Portslade Library
223 Old Shoreham Rd, Portslade, 01273 296914. Buses: 2, 2A/B, 6, 49, 59, 66

Memories Wall

Brighton & Hove Libraries will also be hosting a Memories Wall throughout September at Jubilee Library. Add your own photographs, book, film or music suggestions. Or just pay a visit and take a look! Jubilee Library – throughout September
Al Start Performs

The Al Start band performs songs from Al's album *I Heart History*. Featuring stories from Brighton's hidden past, discovered by Al's research in Brighton & Hove Museums' collections.

Sat 22 Sep, 2pm – 3.30pm
Brighton Museum & Art Gallery

Meet the Curator

An opportunity to discover some of the 1950s costumes held in the museum collection. With Martin Pel, Curator of Costume and Textiles.

Wed 26 Sep, 1pm – 2.30pm Brighton Museum & Art Gallery

My Policeman Live! *City Reads - Read Aloud Groups*



Do you love stories and enjoy books? One of City Reads' proudest achievements is its ongoing Read Aloud Scheme, in partnership with Brighton & Hove Libraries. If you would like to join a group and read *My Policeman*, just come along.

Thursdays – Hove Library 2pm – 4pm.

Fridays – Jubilee Library 2pm – 4pm

Programme Highlights

Dear Queer Diary with Jonathan Kemp
& Clayton Littlewood
Thu 20 Sep, 7.30pm, Waterstone's Brighton

City Reads Book Quiz
Tue 25 Sep, 7.30pm – 9.30pm, The Latest
Music Bar

Victim at Duke of York's Picturehouse
Sat 15 Sep, 2pm, Duke of York's Picturehouse

Tales From The Spotted Dog
Tue 2 – Thu 4 Oct, 6.30pm & 9pm
The Marlborough Theatre

Piers and Queers Walking Tour
Wed 3 Oct, 6.30pm & Sat 6 Oct, 11am
Meeting point: West Pier, Upper Promenade,
opposite Regency Square

Vintage Fair
Sat 6 Oct, 11am – 6pm, The Old Market

Book Doctor
Sat 6 Oct, 2pm – 4pm, The Old Market

Police Boxes & Picturehouses with
Geoffrey Mead
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1950s Make-up Masterclass with
Tasleen Carstairs
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Bethan Roberts in Conversation with
Lynne Truss
Sun 7 Oct, 3pm, The Old Market



TICKETS 01273 709709 | brightonticketshop.com

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