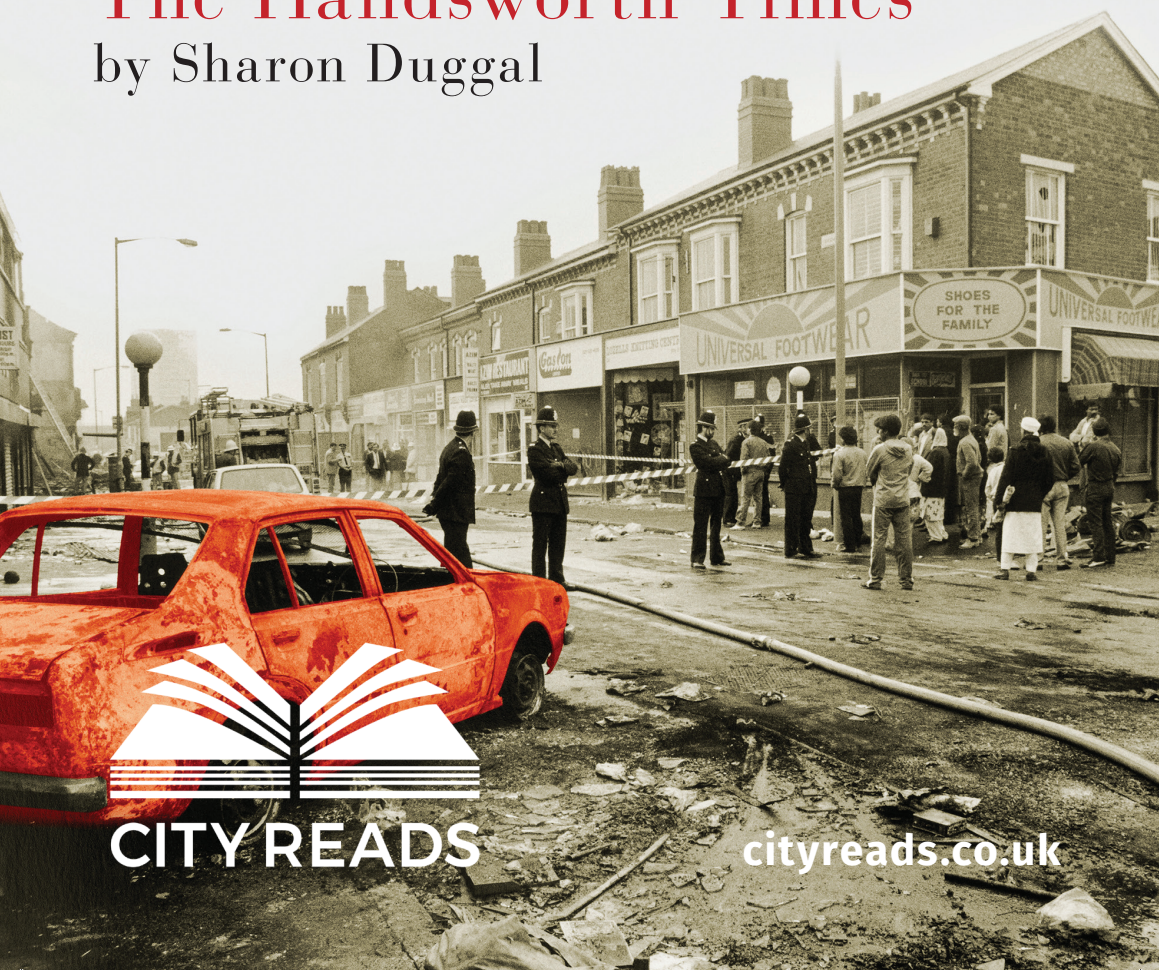


# CITY READS 2017

One city.  
One book.  
A thousand  
conversations.

02 March – 14 May

## The Handsworth Times by Sharon Duggal



CITY READS

[cityreads.co.uk](http://cityreads.co.uk)

# Information

## VENUES

### JUBILEE LIBRARY

Jubilee Street, Brighton BN1 1GE

### THE LATEST MUSIC BAR

14-17 Manchester St, Brighton, BN2 1TF

### REDWOOD CAFÉ

97-99 Trafalgar St, Brighton BN1 4ER

### REGENCY TOWN HOUSE

13 Brunswick Square, Hove, BN3 1EH

### SALLIS BENNEY THEATRE

58-67 Grand Parade, Brighton BN2 0JY

### UPSTAIRS AT MASTERS

Masters, Lindfield, RH16 2LE

### WATERSTONES BRIGHTON

71-74 North St, Brighton BN1 1ZA

ENQUIRIES: [info@collectedworks.co.uk](mailto:info@collectedworks.co.uk)

TICKETS: [cityreads.co.uk](http://cityreads.co.uk)

## City Reads would like to thank its:

### PARTNERS



### FUNDERS



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

### SUPPORTERS



### Thanks also to:

Sharon Duggal, Kevin and Hetha Duffy at Bluemoose Books, Andrew Comben, Beth Burgess, Ellen Booth and staff at Brighton Festival, Rich Naiff at Waterstones, Norah Carr, Stephanie Coates and staff at Brighton & Hove Libraries, David Sewell at Pavilion Gardens Café, Jane Howard at Redwood Café, authors William Shaw and Elly Griffiths, Hannah Robinson at Quercus, Dusty Miller at Picador, The City Reads team: Vicky Tremain, Tash Padfield and Margaret Ousby and of course our wonderful volunteers.

City Reads is produced by Collected Works CIC.



Winner of  
**Community Event  
of the Year**  
(CITY READS)  
Argus Community  
Star Awards 2017

**PIZZAFACE**

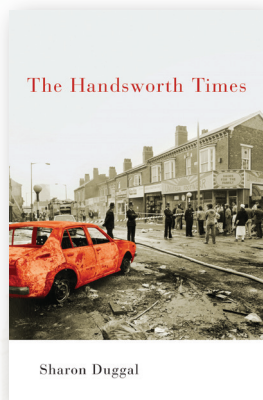


The Regency Town House

**PICADOR**

**PHOTOBOT**  
- .CO -





# The Handsworth Times

by Sharon Duggal

*'Quite simply the most accomplished, complete and startlingly authentic novel I have read this year.'*

Paul Simon - The Morning Star

## Why this book?

City Reads returns to Brighton Festival this year with a stunning debut novel, from a British Asian writer, that is both relevant and important.

The book we have chosen for the city to read, discuss and celebrate is Sharon Duggal's *The Handsworth Times*. We think it is a book for our times - and should be read by everyone who believes in society. This novel's remarkable authenticity and triumphant spirit proves that there is such a thing as society, and given what is happening in this post Brexit era, we need it now, more than ever.

Choosing one book for a whole city to read, share and celebrate is a powerful experience because it brings people together. Brighton based writer Sharon Duggal's beautiful book was the stand out choice this year. Particularly in light of the fact that Kate Tempest had been chosen as Brighton Festival's Guest Director.

*'And in these times, with the fear spreading everywhere and the divisions between us deepening daily, we desperately need to remember that we are all part of the same thing.'*

**Kate Tempest**

*'The Handsworth Times reminds us, that we are all part of the same thing, and there is a comfort in putting aside difference and joining together in solidarity. We love this book, we hope you do too, and look forward to meeting City Readers throughout the festival at one of the many events themed around this year's book.'*

**Sarah Hutchings - Artistic Director, City Reads**



Sarah Hutchings

# The Book

It is 1981, factories are closing, unemployment is high, the NF are marching and the neglected inner cities are ablaze as riots breakout across Thatcher's fractured Britain.

The Agarwal family are facing their own personal tragedy, but their pain is eased through humour, friendship and community.

*'This is a book of redemption and hope set against what was some of the worst riots that Britain has ever seen. Bluemoose is a small publisher but punches above its weight with some amazingly good books. This is one of them. Do treat yourself to a damn fine read.'*

**The Book Doctor - Brighton & Hove Independent**

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# The Author

Sharon Duggal was born to parents who immigrated from the Punjab, India and she grew up in and around Handsworth, Birmingham. She lived in London for many years and now lives in Brighton & Hove. She is a writer, campaigner and radio presenter (alongside one of her sons).



*'What an absolute honour to have my novel, The Handsworth Times chosen for City Reads 2017. It is quite a special thing to know that people from all walks of life across the city where I live and work will be coming together to read my book, just as I have done with many previous City Reads selections. The Handsworth Times is ultimately a book about the hope we find in other people and it will be such a pleasure to have the opportunity to get out there and share the story with so many different people across this city via the inspired City Reads programme of events.'*

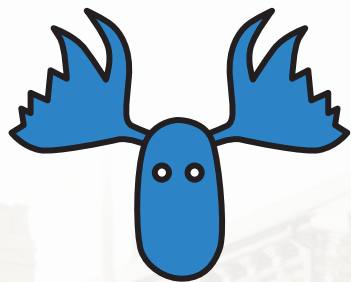
**Sharon Duggal**

***'The writing is as joyous as the story itself. Totally recommended.'***

**WomenReadBooks**



# The Publisher



## Blue Moose Books

Blue Moose Books is a leading independent publisher based in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. Founders Kevin and Hetha Duffy are passionate about stories and the written word and delight in finding great new talent. Its books have had considerable success with literary prizes, being long listed for

The Commonwealth Writers Prize 2013, shortlisted for the Jerwood Fiction and Clarke Awards and other Blue Moose Publications have won the Portico Literature Prize, The Gordon Burn Prize, The Northern Writers Award and Not The Booker Prize in 2011.

*'It is absolutely brilliant that City Reads 2017 has chosen The Handsworth Times by Sharon Duggal, I've been dancing around the room for weeks, wanting to tell everyone that Sharon's wonderful book will be given the national attention and push it so deserves, especially following on from the great success Matt Haig and Paul McVeigh have enjoyed with their City Reads books.'*

**Kevin Duffy - Director, Blue Moose Books**

## City Reads 2017 at Brighton Festival

### Sunday 14 May - SHARON DUGGAL IN CONVERSATION

Bring your City Reads experience full circle by joining Sharon Duggal live for an intimate and exclusive celebration of *The Handsworth Times*.

How did the novel come together? What was her impetus and inspiration? What were the challenges and pitfalls? Find out in this special in-conversation event in which Sharon Duggal talks candidly to writer and critic Amy Raphael, reads excerpts from the book, takes questions from the audience and sheds light on what it was like growing up in a British-Asian

family in Handsworth, Birmingham in the 70s and 80s.

Amy Raphael is the official biographer of Mike Leigh and Danny Boyle. She co-wrote Steve Coogan's autobiography *Easily Distracted* and worked with David Hare on his memoir, *The Blue Touch Paper*. Her first book, *Never Mind the Bollocks: Women Rewrite Rock*, was published by Virago in 1995. She lives in Hove with her daughter.

**The Sallis Benney, 4.30pm, £8**

# Friday 28 April

## Stick It On Party

City Reads has teamed up with the crew from Stick It On for a night of dancing, drinking and daring DJs... in an unashamed celebration of the music of the late 70s and early 80s at the heart of *The Handsworth Times*.

At a Stick It On party, the guests are the DJs, taking over the decks (with a helper for the technical bit!) Guests are introduced by the Stick It On compère and play three of their all-time favourite tracks (from the late 70s/early 80s) guaranteeing an eclectic mix, and a full dance floor.

**All proceeds go towards our work with marginalised readers in the city.**

**The Latest Music Bar, 8pm - late,  
£10 (in advance) £15 on the door**

A poster for the 'Stick It On Party' featuring a grey fedora hat on an orange and white houndstooth background. The text includes the event title, date, time, ticket price, and where to buy tickets.

**Stick it On**

**MUSIC FROM THE LATE 70S AND EARLY 80S  
PICKED AND PLAYED BY YOU**

**CITY READS  
STICK IT ON PARTY**

**FRIDAY 28 APRIL  
LATEST MUSIC BAR  
8PM | TICKETS £10**

BUY TICKETS ONLINE | [CITYREADS.CO.UK](http://CITYREADS.CO.UK) | [EVENTBRITE](http://EVENTBRITE)



Choon! Happy punters at our last Stick It On fundraiser.



# Wednesday 10 May

## Walls Come Tumbling Down

Daniel Rachel featuring special guest  
June Miles-Kingston

*'We were trying to change the world in our tiny way by stopping the rise of fascism amongst youth with the power of music.'*

**Red Saunders**  
- founder of Rock Against Racism

Join writer and musician Daniel Rachel to celebrate the paperback release of *Walls Come Tumbling Down*. His book charts the extraordinary and pivotal period between 1976 and 1992 following Eric Clapton's now notorious and inflammatory speech in support of Enoch Powell and 'black' repatriation. Daniel and guest June Miles-Kingston will discuss how three key movements of that era: Rock Against Racism, 2 Tone, and Red Wedge were shaped by the music of a generation.

Daniel Rachel is the author of *Isle of Noises: Conversations with Great British Songwriters* – a Guardian and NME Book of the Year and a regular guest contributor on BBC Radio 5. Since the late Seventies, June Miles-Kingston has played drums and sung with a multitude of influential bands (including The Communards, Fun Boy Three and Everything But The Girl). Now an award-winning filmmaker, music continues as the central theme in her work.

**Waterstones, 7.30pm, £5**



Daniel Rachel

# Wednesday 29 March

## The Bluemoose Literary Salon

**Hosted by City Reads**  
**director, Sarah Hutchings**

*'Independent publishers are the delicatessens of the publishing world. We nurture all our writers and spend a great deal of time on the editorial side, which most of the big publishers don't do these days.'*

### **Kevin Duffy - Director Bluemoose Books**

Kevin Duffy founded independent publisher Bluemoose Books in 2006 with his wife Hetha, and has gone on to have incredible success, getting many of their authors onto numerous leading prize shortlists.

Join us for this very special literary salon which will feature three exciting Bluemoose authors: Mark A Radcliffe, Colette Snowden and Harriet Paige, reading from and talking about their latest novels. And hear from Kevin Duffy himself, as he shares his experiences of being a small successful indie publisher taking on the world of publishing. Offering emerging writers tips, tricks of the trade, and some invaluable advice!

**Regency Town House, 7pm - 9pm, £10**  
**(includes delicious Indian snacks**  
**from Ahimsa)**



Colette Snowden



Harriet Paige



Mark A Radcliffe



# The City Reads Book Quiz

How much do you know about books? Classics, crime 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 ever popular City Reads Book Quiz.

There will be questions on everything: from genre fiction to literary classics, plus a dedicated round on Sharon Duggal and *The Handsworth Times*.

Join a team or bring your own. There will be brainteasers aplenty for book lovers of all persuasions.

Wine and soft drinks available.

## THE CITY READS BOOK QUIZ IN LINDFIELD

**Thursday 16 March**

Upstairs at Masters, 7pm - 9pm, £5

## THE CITY READS BOOK QUIZ IN BRIGHTON

**Wednesday 22 March**

The Latest Music Bar, 7pm - 9pm, £5



# FREE EVENTS

## 02 March - 28 May Book Swap Boxes

City Reads is all about the pleasure of sharing books and stories. That's why the team at Collected Works CIC works hard to ensure there is always free access to books during the reading period. In the past we have left books on park benches, in launderettes and cafés.

This year we have teamed up with Brighton Festival and Quercus books to bring you these wonderful Book Swap Boxes. There will be a number of copies of *The Handsworth Times* by Sharon Duggal in each box and books by two Of Quercus' best selling authors: William Shaw and Elly Griffiths (also Brighton residents).

We encourage City Readers to take a book, leave a book, read a book and share! It's that simple! Look out for the Book Swap Boxes during City Reads. Locations already confirmed are Redwood Café and Pavilion Gardens Café. We will be signposting further locations via social media and on our website.



## Sunday 05 March Book Swap

### Hosted by William Shaw

Something special happens when we share our passion for a book we love and this is your opportunity to do just that.



Bring a book to swap. Not just any old book, mind; something you really liked and may struggle to part with. A book you would enjoy someone else reading.

Wrap your book up before you come; we'll then pass the books around. If you're the donor, be prepared to talk for a minute or so about why you love this book.

Grab a cup of tea or coffee from the counter and join fellow book lovers to chat about the books you loved in 2016.

**Redwood Café, 3pm, Free**



## Thursday 23 March

# The Big Literary Lunch

Sharon Duggal is from a Punjabi family where there is a long tradition of sharing and eating food together. Meeta Johnson, a passionate teacher and cook will be showing our Read Aloud group from First Base (a drop-in centre for people living on the streets) how to cook a simple vegetarian curry, dahl and chapatis. Sharon Duggal will join the group for lunch where

they will discuss *The Handsworth Times*, which they are currently reading together.

We would like to thank Pizzaface, Brighton for their kind donation of their Hove shop and kitchen in which to host this very special event.

**Closed event**

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## 02, 09, 23 & 30 April

# Sunday Screenings

Brighton & Hove Libraries will be showing themed City Reads films during April. Look out for a special screening of Sharon Duggal's favourite film on World Book Night (23 April). Please note that places for these free screenings are limited.

Arrive early to avoid disappointment. Contact (01273) 294071 for info.

**Jubilee Library, 1.30pm, Free**

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## 23 - 28 April

# I Am Reading – Booky Photo Booth

### Share a 'shelfie' with us

We're teaming up with Brighton & Hove Libraries and Photobot.co to create a snapshot of the city's reading habits. Pop along to our booky booth at Jubilee Library to take a photo of yourself with the book you're currently reading, and this clever Photobot collates them all on our Twitter feed. Follow us @cityreads to watch this one-of-a kind booklist build over one week.

**Jubilee Library, during library opening hours, Free**



# CITY READS 2017 - AT A GLANCE

## Book Swap

Sun 05 March, 3pm, Redwood Café

## City Reads Book Quiz (Lindfield)

Thurs 16 March, 7pm, Upstairs at Masters

## City Reads Book Quiz (Brighton)

Weds 22 March, 7pm, The Latest Music Bar

## Bluemoose Literary Salon

Weds 29 March, 7pm, Regency Townhouse

## Stick It On Party

Fri 28 April, 8pm, The Latest Music Bar

## Walls Come Tumbling Down Daniel Rachel

Weds 10 May, 7.30pm, Waterstones

## Sharon Duggal In Conversation

Sun 14 May, 4.30pm, The Sallis Benney

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Enquiries: [info@collectedworks.co.uk](mailto:info@collectedworks.co.uk) Tickets: [cityreads.co.uk](http://cityreads.co.uk)

One city. One book. A thousand conversations.