

Join our Miltonathon Commemorating the 350th anniversary of Milton's death

About the project

2024 marks the 350th anniversary of Milton's death. To commemorate, Milton's Cottage is staging a collective reading of Milton's work online – and we are looking for partners to help us perform it. From actors to academics, politicians to prisoners, students to stagehands, we want this to be a collective performance by literature lovers everywhere. It will be live streamed and recorded, providing a long-term resource to engage new audiences with Milton's legacy.

When it takes place

Our 24-hour Miltonathon will take place on 8th November 2024 – 350 years from the date of Milton's death. The event will start at 11am GMT, taking approximately 24 hours to complete. Each performance partner will be invited to contribute a short reading of between 1-5 minutes.

Where it takes place

The project will launch at Bread Street in London, where Milton was born, and culminate at St Giles Cripplegate, where he's buried. In between, we'll travel online to a wide range of venues with Miltonic connections and collections, from the Rue Milton in Paris to the Milton State School in Queensland - taking in different countries, continents, time zones and languages in the process.

Getting involved

Each partner will be asked to contribute a short online reading from an allocated work by Milton. The text and timing will be agreed in advance with each partner, who will be required to arrange a suitable performance venue, recruit an individual or group of readers to perform live on the day, and document their reading by video. Our online stage managers will cue in each performer on the day.

Project aims

- Collectively commemorate the 350th anniversary of Milton's death
- Bring communities together to showcase Milton's enduring legacy
- Provide an entertaining way to engage – and re-engage - audiences with Milton's work
- Help promote Milton's Cottage as Milton's only surviving residence and the only museum in the world dedicated to his life, times and works

How you can help

- By agreeing to be one of our event partners
- By recruiting performers to read your allocated excerpt: we are not looking for professional actors and are aiming for an eclectic cast that takes in a wide range of ages and backgrounds
- By arranging a relevant backdrop for your reading, from historic libraries to urban street scenes
- By taking part in the live stream and arranging for the documentation of your selected excerpt
- By promoting the Miltonathon to your own audiences and networks

What we will provide

- We will recruit partners around the world, finding the best texts and times for each organisation
- We will oversee the overall organisation, production and promotion of this project
- We will co-ordinate activities on the day, providing technical support and regular partner updates

For further information

Please contact Kelly O'Reilly, Director of Milton's Cottage on businessdirector@miltonscottage.org or 01494 872313 to discuss your interests and availability on the day.