



News Release

February 2020

Weaver Words Literature Festival is Back!

BBC radio legend Mark Radcliffe and Radio 4 comedian Mitch Benn head an impressive line-up of talks, events, workshops and competitions for Frodsham's fifth Weaver Words Literature Festival, based at Frodsham Community Centre, **Wednesday 29 April – Sunday 3 May.**

Mitch, from BBC Radio Four's hit satirical *Now Show*, promises a musical feast of 'Ten Songs to Save the World' on Saturday 2 May. Award-winning poet Michael Symmons Roberts opens the festival with an evening of poetry and readings on Wednesday 29 April and the following night TV forensic psychologist Kerry Daynes offers a spine-tingling journey into 'The Dark Side of the Mind'.

Guardian journalist and author Henry McDonald will be giving his unique perspective on Northern Ireland, Prof Michael Parkinson will talk about saving Liverpool from the 1980s militant era onwards and festival manager Lynn Pegler will be premiering a new play about Lewis Carroll exploring the fact behind the fiction of the real Alice.

Crime novelist Stephen Booth will be guest speaker at a Literary Lunch at Forest Hills Hotel, and Daphne du Maurier and environmental writer Robert Macfarlane (*The Lost Words*) will come under the microscope in talks by Sue Zlosnik and Andy Jurgis. The festival finishes with Word Weavers, an explosive evening of poetry and music from award-winning poet Andrew Rudd and violinist Daniel Axworthy.



There will again be an array of creative workshops to enjoy with cartoonist Colin Shelbourn, poets Jean Atkin and Julia McGuinness, and a writing ramble with celebrated local author Katharine Norbury, in conjunction with Frodsham's Festival of Walks.



Supported by the Arts Council England, FDR Law, environmental consultants RSK, Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club, Frodsham Town Council and the WI, the festival will again feature two writing competitions. £500 prize money is on offer for writers of the best adult flash fiction story (under 300 words) and for local children, festival patron Tim Firth will again be judging the Great Weaver Words Writing Prize.

The theme for this year's festival is 'Edgelands'- those awkward, dysfunctional places, both real and virtual.

Festival manager Lynn Pegler said: "We are proud to have assembled a great line-up for Frodsham's fifth literature festival. There are events to make you laugh, cry, entertain, surprise and enthrall you.

"The festival theme of 'edgelands' seems to reflect the national mood perfectly at the moment, given the recent Brexit divisions, spotlights on mental health and environmental issues like global warming. There will be lots of wise words to make you think!

"We are grateful to all our sponsors for their kind support and to the dedicated volunteers who give their time and expertise to make this festival happen."



A free 28 page Weaver Words brochure is available to collect from Frodsham Community Centre, Dandelion Gifts, Castle Park and other publicity points around the town.

For more details see the festival website www.weaverwords.org.uk. Tickets can be purchased online, through the box office 0333 666 3366 and in person at Frodsham Community Centre or Dandelion Gifts.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information about Weaver Words, Frodsham Literature Festival, please contact Festival Manager, Lynn Pegler, on 01928 789042/07783 686246. pm@weaverwords.org.uk