



News Release

30 April 2018

Weaver Words hailed a great success!

Weaver Words, Frodsham's fourth literature festival, has been hailed a great success.

Hundreds of people enjoyed 15 literary events, talks and workshops over the five days of the festival, based at Frodsham Community Centre (25-29 April). Top performers like TV's Gyles Brandreth and poet Ian McMillan delighted audiences with clever, side-splitting performances based around the festival theme – a sense of place. Gyles Brandreth described Weaver Words as a “triumph” and a “fabulous festival”.



Lynn Pegler with Gyles Brandreth at Weaver Words

Nearly 1,000 tickets were sold and over 300 entries were received for the adult Flash Fiction creative writing competition and the children's Great Weaver Words Poetry Competition.

Flash fiction prize winners walked away with a total of £500 prize money for the best stories under 300 words. First prize was awarded to David Sconce for 'Edgeland'; Linden Sweeney won second prize for 'A Good Night's Sleep' and Martin Redman was awarded third prize for his story 'Escape'.



Poet Mandy Coe delivers nine inspirational school poetry workshops for Weaver Words

In the Great Weaver Words Children’s Poetry Competition, there were two categories, with the best writers winning a total of £300 in book tokens.

Years 5-7: Winners – Beth Rigby and Luke Pearson. Runners Up – Evie Paget and Jack Bullock. Special Merit – Caed Littler and Joshua Madajewski.

Years 3-4: Winners – Oliver Douglas and Isla Grace Garratt. Runners Up Leevi Jones and Harry Lunt.

Nearly three dozen people responded to the challenge of writing a ‘poem on a postcard’ for the festival’s Pop-Up Poetry Map Wall, painted especially for the festival by Norley artist and volunteer Ann Crawford.

Festival manager Lynn Pegler said: “The Weaver Words festival goes from strength to strength. Frodsham was buzzing with a great community celebration of words and books. We want to thank everyone who took part in some way, particularly the army of volunteers who ensured everyone had a good time.



The Poetry Wall

“It has been fantastic to read everyone’s poems inspired by ‘a sense of place’ theme. We have had some brilliant postcard-sized verses – some written by complete beginners.

“We held three writing workshops to encourage people to put pen to paper and again we were able to inspire first-timers as well as more experienced writers.”

Other popular events included talks on Jane Eyre by Prof Sue Zlosnik, Andy Jurgis on Seamus Heaney, music biography and Islam in modern Britain, plus a Literary Lunch at Forest Hills Hotel with guest speaker David Barnett, author of best-selling novel *Calling Major Tom*.

Award-winning Word Weavers poet Andrew Rudd and violinist Daniel Axworthy were joined by poet Rachel Mann for another inspirational opening night of music and poetry. BBC Radio Four *Archers* star Sunny Ormonde and colleagues took their audience on a light-hearted journey into the world of poet Philip Larkin in the popular stage production *Larkin' About* and *Jungle Book* author Rudyard Kipling took centre stage in a new play, *If Only: An Audience with Rudyard Kipling*.

The Weaver Words Festival, a joint enterprise with Frodsham Community Association, takes place every two years and was supported by Arts Council England, the Marshes Community Benefit Fund and Frodsham Town Council.

For more details see the festival website www.weaverwords.org.uk.

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



Ian McMillan and Luke Carver Goss at Weaver Words