



News Release

1 March 2023

Weave New Words at Frodsham Literature Festival!

Calling all budding writers – get creative at Cheshire’s Weaver Words Literature Festival this spring (28 April – 7 May).

£500 prize money is on offer for the best bite-sized short stories of 300 words or less in the Frodsham Flash Fiction Prize, sponsored by RSK group based in Helsby. Deadline is 7 April 2023.

North Cheshire school children are invited to weave their own magical words and win £300 worth of fabulous prizes in the Great Weaver Words Writing Competition, sponsored by Encirc Glass, Elton. Key Stage 3 children (aged 11-14) are invited to write a poem on the festival theme of ‘New Beginnings’ and Key Stage 2 (age 7 – 11) an imaginary personal account of a moment in history. Closing date is 24 March.

The Marshes Community Benefit Fund is sponsoring a series of creative workshops in local schools, delivered by Wirral children’s author Charlie Lea and Cheshire poet Francesca Pridham. Taking part are pupils from Helsby High School and primary schools at Norley, Crowton, Helsby Hillside, Hornsmill, Frodsham Manor, St Luke’s, Frodsham C of E and Frodsham Primary Academy.

Adults are invited to join one of the three creative writing workshops at the festival, with specialist sessions on crime writing with Martin Edwards, writing for wellbeing with Chester Cathedral Poet-in-Residence Julia McGuinness, and a poetry walk in Frodsham’s Hob Hey Wood with Shropshire poet Jean Atkin.

And everyone is invited to respond to the festival theme, ‘*New Beginnings*’ by writing a short poem on a postcard for the pop-up poetry wall, which will be displayed in Frodsham Community Centre throughout April and May.

Festival manager Lynn Pegler said: “We want to inspire an explosion of creativity and encourage everyone to get writing! We welcome all poems on a postcard for our festival pop-up poetry wall, from a haiku about the King’s coronation to a few witty lines about making a fresh start.

“Whether people are putting pen to paper for the first time or they’re experienced writers, we invite everyone to send us a poetry postcard or enter one of the brilliant writing competitions.”

Tickets are flying out for the main Weaver Words Literature Festival, Friday 28 April – Sunday 7 May, which offers nine days of fabulous talks, events and workshops, based mainly at Frodsham Community Centre.

Poet Laureate Simon Armitage (3 May) is likely to be a sell-out event. Also proving popular are *Grange Hill/Brookside/Hollyoaks* creator Sir Phil Redmond, a Bronte family Yorkshire afternoon tea with author Sharon Wright, a one-man stage version of *Great Expectations* by Gerald Dickens, Charles Dickens’ great great grandson, and a Literary Cruise along the River Weaver from Anderton Boat Lift.

Other highlights include patron Tim Firth who will be revealing the inside story on working with pop stars and creating West End productions, London University Professor Andrew Blick on recent threats to the British constitution with his new book ‘*The Bonfire of the Decencies*’, literary expert Andy Jurgis on the poet RS Thomas and radio DJ Mark Radcliffe who will be guest author at a dinner in Frodsham’s Main Street Kitchen restaurant.

Cheshire author Susi Osborne will be guest speaker at a fringe event at Frodsham Library on 20 April and the main festival opens on Friday 28 April with stand-up comedy from Frank Melling at Frodsham craft brewery Chapter Brewing, in a celebration of bikes and beer.

For small children, there’s a chance to enjoy a brilliant jungle activity session with Asa Murphy, author of *The Monkey with No Bum*. And award-winning Word Weavers poet Andrew Rudd and violinist Daniel Axworthy are joined by poet Sarah Clare Conlon for another inspirational night of music and poetry on Friday 5 May.

Weaver Words is supported by the Arts Council England, the Marshes Community Benefit Fund, RSK (Helsby), Encirc glass manufacturers, Main Street Kitchen and Chapter Brewing.

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

For more details about events and competitions, visit 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.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information about Weaver Words, Frodsham Literature Festival, please contact Festival Manager, Lynn Pegler, on 07783 686246.

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