



News Release

26 March 2025

Weave New Words at Frodsham Literature Festival!

Calling all budding writers – get creative at Cheshire’s Weaver Words Literature Festival at Frodsham Community Centre this spring (3-11 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 Sunday 6 April 2025.

Adults are invited to join one of four creative writing workshops at the festival. There are specialist sessions on writing children’s picture books with Iryna Garkusha, flash fiction with the competition judge David Gaffney, journal writing with former Chester Cathedral Poet-in-Residence Julia McGuinness, and a special poetry workshop aboard the Danny steamship moored at Anderton Boat Lift, with Shropshire poet Jean Atkin.

The festival’s popular Pop-Up Poetry Wall will make a welcome return to Frodsham Community Centre throughout April and May. Everyone is invited to submit a short ‘poem on a postcard’ inspired by this year’s festival theme, ‘A Celebration of Cheshire’.

North Cheshire school children (aged 7-14) are weaving their own magical words in the hope of winning £300 worth of prizes in the Great Weaver Words Writing Competition, sponsored by Rotary in Frodsham and Helsby. They are invited to respond to a space theme, inspired by Sci Tech Daresbury and Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope. Five local schools have enjoyed exciting science and writing workshops, kindly provided by Daresbury Laboratory, which is involved in the James Webb Space Telescope project.

Festival manager Lynn Pegler said: “We want to inspire an explosion of creativity and encourage everyone to get writing! We are very grateful to

Daresbury Laboratory for teaming up with the festival to provide free science workshops to several local schools.

“On our new Poetry Wall, decorated with a delightful Cheshire map by Norley artist Ann Crawford, we would love to see lots of short poems inspired by our wonderful county. 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 the fabulous Flash Fiction competition.”

The festival is also providing a showcase for new work by a range of authors. BBC presenter Louise Minchin has just published her first novel *Isolation Island*, inspired by her appearance on ITV’s programme, *I’m a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here*.

A Celebration of Local Writers on Saturday 10 May features new poetry by Sarah Clare Conlon and a fascinating insight into the world of the historical novelist with David Bissenden. Creative writing teacher Julia McGuinness will be launching a new guide to journal writing and crime novelist Kelly Mullen will be guest at an event hosted by Frodsham’s Curious Cat Bookshop.

Jenny Éclair has just published a new autobiography, *Jokes, Jokes, Jokes*, festival manager and Cheshire poet Lynn Pegler will be performing selections from her new illustrated poetry collection, *Around Cheshire in 100 Poems and Pictures* at the Gala Evening on a double bill with festival patron and award-winning playwright Tim Firth. Author Nell Stevens will be exploring the world of Elizabeth Gaskell in a delightful afternoon tea event, author and screenwriter Tony Schumacher will give insights into his hit BBC drama *The Responder* and Frodsham Library will be hosting an evening with best-selling crime novelist Simon McCleave.

Other highlights include readings by poet Lemn Sissay, a one-man stage version of *Nicholas Nickleby* by Gerald Dickens, Charles Dickens’ great great grandson, a debate about The Future of the Media with leading media experts, and an exciting event for young children (age 4-8) Animates Action Stations.

Literary expert Andy Jurgis will be exploring the work of Cheshire country diarist A.W.Boyd. Cheshire’s role in the English Civil War, a Lewis Carroll tour

and the 'Punctuation Police' all come under the spotlight and Tim Firth will be guest author at a literary dinner in Frodsham's Main Street Kitchen restaurant.

Weaver Words is kindly sponsored by RSK (Helsby), Encirc glass manufacturers, Main Street Kitchen and Rotary in Frodsham and Helsby.

A free Weaver Words brochure is available to collect from Frodsham Community Centre 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 or through the box office 0333 666 3366.

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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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