



News Release

13 February 2023

Weaver Words Literature Festival is Back!

New Line-Up is announced.

Poet laureate Simon Armitage and TV drama legend Sir Phil Redmond head an impressive line-up of talks, events, workshops and competitions at Cheshire's sixth Weaver Words Literature Festival, based at Frodsham Community Centre, **Friday 28 April – Sunday 7 May 2023.**

Recent political turmoil in Westminster comes under the spotlight in an interview with London University Professor Andrew Blick about his new book *'The Bonfire of the Decencies'*, literary expert Andy Jurgis will give a seminar on the poet RS Thomas and author Sharon Wright's fascinating insights into the Bronte family will be served with a hearty Yorkshire afternoon tea.

Radio DJ Mark Radcliffe will be guest author at a dinner in Frodsham's Main Street Kitchen restaurant, Weaver Words patron Tim Firth will be revealing the inside story on working with pop stars and creating West End productions, and actor Gerald Dickens, Charles Dickens' great great grandson, makes a welcome return, this time performing a stunning one man show of *Great Expectations*.

Poetry lovers can enjoy the treat of a Literary River Cruise from Anderton Boat Lift along the Weaver Navigation accompanied by inspirational words on the waterways, and Word Weavers, poet Andrew Rudd and violinist Daniel Axworthy, will again offer an enthralling evening of poetry and music.

Kicking off the festival will be self-publishing guru and former Thundersprint festival organiser, Frank Melling with a stand-up comedy routine at Frodsham craft brewery Chapter Brewing, and author Tony Bryan will be explaining how to turn historical events into authentic modern fiction.

For small children, there's a chance to enjoy a brilliant activity session with Asa Murphy, author of *The Monkey with No Bum*. And for adults there will again be an array of creative workshops on offer from a *Howdunit* crime writing masterclass with author Martin Edwards, to *Writing for Wellbeing* with Chester Cathedral Poet-in-Residence Julia McGuinness, plus a poetry walk and workshop in Frodsham's Hob Hey Wood, with poet Jean Atkin.

Festival manager Lynn Pegler said: "We're delighted to have assembled a fantastic line-up for Frodsham's sixth literature festival. We decided early on the theme for this year's festival would be 'New Beginnings', reflecting the changing cultural landscape as we emerge from the pandemic.

"But by coincidence, this turned out to be amazingly appropriate, as King Charles announced his coronation date as Saturday 6th May – right in the middle of festival week! This led to some changes to the initial programme to accommodate performers, with the happy result that we offer an even longer and wider range of fabulous events to enjoy this year.

"We are grateful to all our sponsors for their kind support and to the dedicated volunteers who give their time and expertise to bring Weaver Words to life."

Supported by the Arts Council England, the Marshes Community Benefit Fund, RSK (Helsby), Encirc glass manufacturers, Main Street Kitchen and Chapter Brewing, the festival will again feature two creative writing competitions.

£500 prize money is on offer for authors of the best new adult flash fiction story (under 300 words) and for local children, the Great Weaver Words Writing Prize will be judged by festival patron Tim Firth.

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 area.

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.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES For more information about Weaver Words, Frodsham Literature Festival, please contact Festival Manager, Lynn Pegler, on 07783 686246. lynn@peglercommunications.co.uk