

clients.

The Worcestershire Literary Festival is coming soon...
17th - 27th June · www.worcslitfest.com

Welcome to the May Bank Holiday edition of the Worcestershire Literary Festival Newsletter.

The Festival Programme Is Now Online

The programme for the festival is complete and the countdown has begun to the launch of the first ever Worcestershire Literary Festival. Please check out our [Events Page](#) to find out what's on when during June 17th to June 27th and buy tickets – **TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE TO BUY NOW FROM THE FESTIVAL OFFICE FOR MOST EVENTS USING PAYPAL.**

A brochure update will be available at the beginning of June and during the Festival itself we will be distributing information from Unit C7 in the Crowngate in Worcester.

If you would like to receive a PDF of the programme of events please email info@worcslitfest.com to request this.

WLF Mailing List

Want to sign up to our mailing list and receive the latest news, updates, offers and information about the forthcoming Worcestershire Literary Festival. Simply send an email to mailinglist@worcslitfest.com with SUBSCRIBE in the subject bar to start getting updates from the WLF team.

Download The Official Souvenir Brochure

You can download a copy of the Worcestershire Literary Festival brochure by [clicking here](#). Please note it is 5mb in size and may take a few minutes to download on slower

connections. The brochure is currently being distributed to various locations throughout Worcester and Worcestershire.

How To Find Us During The Festival

Please [click here](#) to find out information about Worcester and Worcestershire and how to get to some of the venues taking part in the Festival. We will be issuing a map and venue list on the website for download very soon.

Festival Information Point

We are delighted to announce that in association with the Crowngate Shopping Centre in Worcester there will be a Festival Information Point during the Festival in Unit C7 in Chapel Walk of the Crowngate, next door to The Entertainer and opposite Huntingdon Hall and the Art House Cafe. From here you will be able to buy tickets to our events, find out information, pick up copies of the brochure and flyers and buy WLF related merchandise.

Volunteer For Us

If you would like to volunteer to help make the first ever Worcestershire Literary Festival a huge success, please download a copy of our Volunteer Registration Form and return it via email to Raven Brookes – Festival Organiser: Volunteer Coordination via raven@worclifefest.com. If you have put yourself down to volunteer for us during the Festival in June, Raven will be in touch w/c 30th May 2011.

[Download The Volunteer Registration Form](#)

A Bard For Worcestershire - Meet Our Ten Finalists

We are proud to present the ten finalists who have been shortlisted for “A Bard For Worcestershire”, and who will compete for the chance to become the County’s first Poet Laureate at our launch night on Friday 17 June at Worcester Cathedral:

Catherine Crosswell

Catherine lives in Malvern up by the clock tower and enjoys the spring water to keep her

springy. Her family all like to join in The Bumbly Boo by Mr Spike Milligan- one day she would like to perform it with her children and maybe the Ning Nang Nong, as we all enjoy shouting BOO!

Catherine is a member of Four Tart Harmony and can also be found wearing earplugs, banging away with the Samba Band, Baixa Beat. Catherine plays guitar and frequently tries to sneak music into her poems.

Maggie Doyle

Since retiring last year from a hectic commercial life, Maggie now has more time and commitment for poetry.

Fergus McGonigal

Fergus McGonigal grew up in Kent and moved to Worcestershire twenty years ago, where he married my Worcestershire wife, where they raised their five Worcestershire sons and where he has worked as a drama and English teacher in Worcestershire's schools. Fergus has lived throughout Worcestershire: in Worcester city, Malvern and now Chaddesley Corbett.

Poetry is his passion. As well as writing, Fergus regularly performs poetry in Worcestershire and also beyond, enthusiastically waving the Worcestershire flag at spoken word events in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Bristol, Leicestershire and London.

He shall continue to do so for many years – Laureate or nay!

Theo Theobald

Theo is a published author and two times poetry slam champion in the Midlands. In support of his books he has written articles for The Daily Mail, The Sunday Times, but most significantly The Bromsgrove Standard. He has also appeared on Radio H&W's breakfast show.

Although known on the performance poetry circuit for his lighter comedic side, Theo has also written poignant pieces about life, love and the wonders of Worcestershire.

He is currently writing a book about becoming a poet, which includes some of his best received work and an avalanche of amusing and amazing tales.

Paula Martin

Paula Martin is a lawyer by trade but a writer, singer and performer by choice. She was brought up in South Staffordshire, just over the border, but moved to Worcestershire after some years of exile in Birmingham. She has a passion for the countryside, and “Bluebell Time in Hurcott Woods” summarises the stunning beauty of this county, and its ability to transcend sorrow and distress. She lives with her daughter, a dog and a cat, and a husband who comes and goes...

Heather Wastie

Born in the Black Country, Heather Wastie moved to Cookley in 2006. She is a freelance poet, humorist, singer/songwriter and author of 3 illustrated poetry collections. A successful slam poet, she co-founded Brewers’ Troupe which takes poetry plays into non-arts venues and runs performance poetry workshops. In 2010 Heather received funding from Worcestershire County Council, the Elmley Foundation and Wyre Forest District Council for an oral history project with Worcestershire residents. Heather regularly works in schools and with adults who have a learning disability. She has edited two books of reminiscences with older people, and performs whenever and wherever she can!

Kathy Gee

With a career in archaeology and museums, creative writing and poetry became a compulsion in 2007 and she has since burned many suppers in their pursuit. She enjoys writing to time pressures, is just as likely to be humorous as serious and, in addition to traditional publication media, is also exploring video poetry and YouTube.

Amy Rainbow

Amy Rainbow lives in a cottage beyond the Malvern Hills. Her hobbies include fire-juggling, unicycling and tightwire-walking. She plays accordion, and will one day do it well. A qualified philosopher, Amy is always happy to share her observations on life, the universe and everything, for a very reasonable fee. Her life’s ambition is to introduce iambic pentameter as Worcestershire’s new universal dialect, and she will not rest until

this dream is achieved. Or until her usual ten o'clock bedtime, whichever comes first.

Sarah James

Sarah James has lived in Worcestershire most of her life, won and been placed in many poetry competitions and been widely published. Her collection, 'Into the Yell', has been praised by leading British poets.

Sarah regularly reads locally and as guest poet across the Midlands, has been a poet in residence, lead school/community workshops/talks and is the Poetry Society's Worcester and Droitwich Stanza representative.

She has a poem on Polesworth Poets' Trail and use art, video and collaborative projects to bring poetry to a wider audience, including a children's poem video on the National Poetry Day 2010 website. Her website is at www.sarah-james.co.uk.

Tony Goodwin

Information coming soon.

Tickets for the launch night of the Festival which will see the appointment of the County's first ever Poet Laureate with The Right Worshipful The Mayor Of Worcester, Cllr Dr David Tibbutt, Robin Walker MP and other Worcestershire dignitaries in attendance are available for £6.00 or £5.00 concessions from our website www.worcslitfest.com.

Next Parole Parlata : The Spoken Word

"Parole Parlata : The Spoken Word" is back on Thursday 2nd June and is a dedicated spoken word and "music that tells a story" platform. If you would like the chance to read your short stories, poems, prose, try out your performance poetry or music that tells a story, this evening is for you!

And even better...this one is a WLF pre-festival special event designed to hopefully whet your appetites for the festival proper next month!

Hosted by Little Venice in Worcester, there will be a full bar service, cakes/snacks and you can of course take advantage of their full menu and enjoy their delicious pizzas, pastas or salads. Try out their £7.95 menu which includes a main course and a drink.

Already confirmed to perform on June 2nd:

Beth "Knuckles" Edwards

Tony Judge

Gary Longden

Nicola Callow

Janet Smith

Music & Comedy from "The Very Grimm Brothers"

Chris Guidon

Ruth Stacey

Headlining the event will be Matt Windle, former Birmingham Young Poet Laureate

ENTRY FEE AND HOW TO PAY

The entry fee for this event is £3.00 on the door, but if you pay in advance using Paypal the entry fee is reduced to £2.00.

Buy tickets now online using paypal.

Parole Parlate Tickets June 2nd

Please visit our facebook shop – www.facebook.com/wlfshop – to pay by Paypal

We will then email you an entry ticket on receipt of payment via paypal.

Please note that all money raised will go towards funding these events and future Worcestershire Literary Festival events.

TAKING PART AND PERFORMING

If you would like a slot to perform on one of these dates please let us know by emailing Ruth or Lisa via info@worcslitfest.com, leave a post on the wall of this event or visit www.facebook.com/worcslitfest and leave a post on the wall.

Performers get free entry, a choice of an alcoholic or soft drink and cake for taking part.

ADVANCE INFORMATION

“Parole Parlate : The Spoken Word” is on the first Thursday of every month, so advance dates for your diary will be:

Thursday 23rd June 2011 – A WLF Festival Special Event.

Thursday 7th July 2011 – PP won’t stop just because the Festival for 2011 will be over by then 😊

Spoken Word Events At Blues At The Fold

Blues at The Fold – Worcester’s only blues festival – has announced its line up of nationally recognised bands and musicians for this, its third, year. The Worcestershire Literary Festival is delighted to announce that they are organising a programme of spoken word performances in the Courtyard at The Fold during the 1 day festival, and have so far confirmed performances by:

Suz Winspear

Fergus McGonigal

Laura Dediccoat

Sarah James

Beth “Knuckles” Edwards

More to be announced very soon.

Spoken word performances will take place in the Courtyard at The Fold on Saturday 2nd July at the following times – 2.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.00pm, 7.30pm and 9.15pm. Two performances will take place on the main stage from Laura Dediccoat, Worcestershire’s first ever Young Poet Laureate and hopefully from the newly appointed Worcestershire Poet Laureate, subject to them being available.

Held on Saturday 2nd July at The Fold, an eco café and craft centre at Bransford three miles from the city centre, the festival combines the best of the blues with a focus on

delicious local and sustainable food and drink.

On the bill this year we have top blues harp player Simon 'Honeyboy' Hickling and his band, the Bex Marshall Band who will be joining us straight from a performance at Glastonbury, blues orchestra The Big Blues Tribe, Rollo Markee & the Tailshakers and more.

As well as the excellent music, the food and drink plays a vital role at every festival and the award winning food at The Fold takes some beating. There will be real beer from local producers Teme Valley and Malvern breweries and real cider and perry from Worcester's own Barbourne Cider. All the food is from local, sustainable and largely organic sources and cooked by chef David McCaw.

With the doors opening at 1pm and music running from 2-11pm this is a one day festival with a friendly local and family feel that is rapidly making a name for itself on the circuit. There is activity for the kids including a 'make your own recycled instrument' workshop where everyone get to play on the main stage with one of the bands.

For more information and tickets check out the website – www.bluesatthefold.co.uk – or phone the Ticket Hotline on 01886-812989.

WLF Post-Festival Events - June and August 2011

The fun and activities won't stop even though the Festival proper finishes on Monday 27th June! We are delighted to announce that the following events will take place in July and August after the first ever Worcestershire Literary Festival:

Saturday 2nd July 2011 – Spoken Word Performances at Blues At The Fold, Bransford, Worcestershire – www.bluesatthefold.co.uk.

Thursday 7th July 2011 – Parole Parlate : The Spoken Word Post-Festival Special at Little Venice, Worcester, 7.30pm (these will continue monthly on the first Thursday of every month, with kind permission from Little Venice Restaurant in Worcester).

Friday 4th August 2011 – Parole Parlate : The Spoken Word at Little Venice, Worcester, 7.30pm.

Saturday 13th August 2011 – Literally In An Evening! at the Arts Workshop, Worcester,

5.00pm. An evening of spoken word and literary events, under the banner of the Worcester Festival.

Saturday 27th August 2011 – Literally In A Day! at the Arts Workshop, Worcester, 10.00am till 11.00pm. If you missed the main Festival in June we will be bringing you a full day's worth of entertainment and literary events including events for children and more.

We will be announcing more events throughout the year as we look forward to the second Worcestershire Literary Festival in June 2011 including new workshops and a brand new performance poetry event in Drummonds, Worcester, which will be launching in September 2011. We will also be running a series of spoken word events to commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11 in September 2011.

So keep checking back for the latest updates, "like" us on Facebook or sign up for our newsletter by emailing mailinglist@worcslitfest.com and typing "subscribe" in the subject header.

If you want to be involved in the festival or help us get in touch by emailing info@worcslitfest.com or call 0845 652 0621.

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Street, Worcester WR1 1HB.

The MailChimp logo, featuring the word "MailChimp" in a blue, cursive script font, enclosed within a light blue rounded rectangular border.

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