

Welcome to the March 2011 issue of the Worcestershire Literary Festival's Official Newsletter.

The Festival Team are busy putting the exciting programme of events together that will take place during June 17th - 27th, mainly in Worcester but with other exciting events in places such as Kidderminster, Evesham, Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Malvern and more. In this newsletter you will find out about the pre-festival events that we have coming up, the launch of our competition to find "A Bard For Worcestershire", the Festival programme and how YOU can help and get involved.

Forthcoming events.

Earth Hour - Saturday 26th March 2011, 7.30pm at the Guildhall, Worcester.

The Worcestershire Literary Festival Team and Transition Worcester are proud to present Earth Hour: An Evening of Poetry & Music to Promote Climate Week Awareness on Saturday 26th March 2011, 7.00pm.

Poets & Musicians so far confirmed for the event include:

Sophia Dimmock
Jenny Hope
Sean Jeffrey
Naomi Ruth

and more.

The event will start at 7.00pm and The Mayor of Worcester, Cllr Mike Layland, will be in attendance. We will be raising funds for the Mayor's charities – Acorns Children's Hospice and the three city cadet units (Sea Cadets, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps cadets).

At 8.30pm all power and electricity will be switched off and for an hour performances will take place under "green" or non-electrical related lighting.

There will be refreshments, cakes and snacks available on the night.

Tickets cost £5.00 in advance and £6.00 on the door on the night. ALL proceeds will go to the Mayor's charities, and a raffle will also take place on the night.

Buy your tickets now via Paypal:



Tickets can also be purchased by visiting the WFL Facebook shop – www.facebook.com/wlfshop, or by calling the Festival Office on 0845 652 0621. You can also email the Festival Office to book your tickets via info@worcslitfest.com and they will also be available at various WLF events in the next two weeks.

Parole Parlate - The Spoken Word: Thursday 7th April 2011, 7.30pm, Little Venice, Worcester.

“Parole Parlate : The Spoken Word” is back on Thursday 7th April 2011 and is Worcester’s only dedicated spoken word 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!

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. More details of special offers in the restaurant will be coming soon.

Already confirmed to perform on April 7th:

David Calcutt
Amanda Bonnick
Caroline Ferguson
Giovanni "Spoz" Esposito
Beth Edwards – Worcestershire Young Poet Laureate Runner Up
Laura Dedicoat – Worcestershire Young Poet Laureate Winner

There will also be a very special guest appearance from [Roy McFarlane, Birmingham’s current 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.



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.

Learn : Eat : Perform with Mark Niel - Sunday 17th April 2011, 11.00am

The Worcestershire Literary Festival in association with Apples & Snakes is proud to announce the next in our series of “Learn : Eat : Perform” workshops, taking place at the Arts Workshop on Sunday 17th April 2011.

Starting at 11.00am, the morning will consist of a workshop by Mark Niel, followed by lunch at Cafe Bliss and an open mic session to put into practise what you have learnt – hence Learn : Eat : Perform.

More Information About Mark Niel:

Mark first stood on stage and declared himself a poet in May 2008. Audiences immediately warmed to his assured performances and deft ability to blend humour, pathos and provocative material.

In an amazingly short space of time, Mark has come to the attention of leading Spoken Word organisations having won Slams with Apples and Snakes; Hammer and Tongue; Spiel and Farrago. 2009 was an amazing year for Mark as he reached the final rounds of two National finals and performed at the Cheltenham Literature Festival as well as in London's West End.

Mark's prize-winning material ranges from personal reflections to barn-storming Performance Pieces and he has been published by United Press, Forward Press, Monkey Kettle and South Bank Poetry. As well as performing, Mark also founded and hosts "Tongue in Chic" a Poetry and Spoken Word event in Milton Keynes which brings in the best performers on the national scene to entertain and inspire local writers.

Workshop Cost & How To Pay:

The workshop costs £6.00 in advance, or £7.00 on the door on the day.

You can book a space at the workshop via paypal by visiting our online shop on our website www.worcslitfest.com.

You don't need to have a paypal account to send the entry fee.

You can also visit www.facebook.com/wlfshop to buy your ticket.

Or call the Festival Office & Booking Hotline on 0845 652 0621 between 9.00am – 5.30pm, Monday to Friday for more payment options.

A Bard For Worcestershire - The Search is ON!!

"A Bard For Worcestershire" – The Search for Worcestershire's First Ever Poet Laureate

The Worcestershire Literary Festival is proud to announce a competition to find the first ever Worcestershire Poet Laureate to be appointed during the launch night of the Festival on Friday 17th June 2011 at a prestigious event taking place in Worcester Cathedral, starting at 7.30pm.

The first Poet Laureate will be appointed for a period of one year and we are looking for someone who will be an ambassador for the County of Worcestershire, who will attend key events and write poems about special occasions throughout the year.

If you would like to enter the competition please visit our [entry form page](#) and get writing today!

Who can enter "A Bard For Worcestershire"?

This competition is open to anyone who is 20 years old and above and lives in Worcestershire.

What do you need to do to enter?

Entrants need to submit two poems to us, one of which needs to be on the subject of 'Worcestershire', and the other one can be of the poet's choice and on any topic, theme or subject. The poems can be any length, and in any form.

How much does it cost to enter?

The entry fee is £3.00 and £1.50 for concessions (students, the unwaged and OAP's) to cover our administration costs. Please contact us on 0845 652 0621 if you have any queries about this or wish to discuss the administration cost further.

If you submit your entry to us online on our website you can pay via paypal by sending payment to info@worcslitfest.com via www.paypal.com, or pay online via our Facebook Shop – www.facebook.com/wlfshop, via our website www.worcslitfest.com or by cheque made payable to “Worcestershire Literary Festival”. Alternatively please ring 0845 652 0621 for other payment options.

When is the closing date?

All entries for “A Bard For Worcestershire” must be received in the Worcestershire Literary Festival Office by **5.00pm on Friday 13th May 2011**.

Is there help at hand to enter the competition?

Yes, we have 2 workshops taking place before the closing date in Worcester at the Arts Workshop:

Sunday 20th March 2011 – Learn : Eat : Perform with Lucy English, 11.00am

Sunday 17th April 2011 – Learn : Eat : Perform with Mark Niel, 11.00am

The cost of these workshops is £6.00 in advance or £7.00 on the door on the day at the Arts Workshop, but if you have already entered “A Bard For Worcestershire” before the workshops take place the cost of attending one of these workshops will be £3.00.

We will be organising other workshops in the County and will announce details of these very soon.

What Will The Prize Be?

The winner of “A Bard For Worcestershire” will be known as the Worcestershire Poet Laureate for the year 2011/2012, receive a trophy, certificate and other prizes which are currently being organised. There will also be certificates and prizes for the two runners up, and possible paid opportunities to write, perform and make appearances as the Worcestershire Poet Laureate throughout the year. The post of Worcestershire Poet Laureate is an honorary one.

When will the winner be announced?

10 entrants will be shortlisted by the end of May 2011 and the appointment ceremony will take place on the first night of the Worcestershire Literary Festival on Friday 17th June 2011 where the winner and 2 runners up will be announced.

All 10 poets will be asked to perform their 2 submitted poems at the appointment ceremony in front of distinguished guests such as the 3 MP's for Worcestershire, The Mayor of Worcester and other important Worcestershire dignitaries. The appointment ceremony will be compered by former Birmingham Poet Laureate Giovanni “Spoz” Esposito.

Who will be judging?

The judging panel will consist of Roy McFarlane (current Birmingham Poet Laureate), The Very Rev'd Peter Atkinson (The Dean Of Worcester), Laura Dediccoat (the first ever Worcestershire Young Poet Laureate), Lisa Ventura (Festival Director of the Worcestershire Literary Festival) and Steve Wilson (the County Arts Officer at Worcestershire County Council).

What is a Poet Laureate?

The Worcestershire Poet Laureate is a prestigious title that will last for one year.

The winner of “A Bard For Worcestershire” will be asked to:

- Act as a campaigner and advocate for poetry and performance poetry to encourage and inspire others to write, read and perform poetry.
- Act as an ambassador for Worcestershire and the Worcestershire Literary Festival.
- Write 3-4 poems throughout the year to celebrate special events and occasions in the county, and more if the winner wishes to.
- Participate, read and perform poetry at festivals, in schools, libraries, spoken word events and many other events.

Who is the UK’s current Poet Laureate?

The UK’s poet laureate is officially appointed by the government and is often expected to compose poems for state occasions and other government events. Carol Ann Duffy is our current poet laureate, having taken over from Andrew Motion in May 2009.

If you have any questions or queries about this new and exciting competition, please contact the Festival Office on 0845 652 0621 and speak to either Ruth Ingles or Lisa Ventura. Alternatively please email info@worcslitfest.com for further information. Please also contact us if you would like to receive hard copies of the entry form and competition information so we can send these out to you, or if you would like them sent to you via email.

Festival Programme

As well as the appointment of "A Bard For Worcestershire", we will be delighted to welcome author Victoria Connolly, workshops and performances by Oversteps poets, the author William Cash and much more. The first batch of confirmed events will be uploaded to our website in the next day or two, so keep checking back at www.worcslitfest.com for more information.

Volunteer For Us

Organisation for the Worcestershire Literary Festival is stepping up a gear this month and our programming is well under way. We have many exciting things that we will be announcing soon as part of our programming for the Festival, including the search for Worcestershire’s first Poet Laureate (to work alongside the first ever Worcestershire Poet Laureate, Laura Dedicoat), authors such as Peter Snow, Victoria Connolly, workshops, talks and seminars galore and much more.

But none of this could happen without YOUR help, and therefore the WLF are looking for volunteers and helpers to assist the Festival Organiser team. We are also looking for volunteers with experience of event programming to help us shape the way the Worcestershire Literary Festival will look during 17th to 27th June this year.

Does the WLF have other volunteer positions available other than as Festival Organisers?

It is the intention to then have other volunteers to support all the Festival Organisers in terms of administration, delivering leaflets, getting in touch with venues, confirming events and other hands on organisation of the WLF as a whole. We need volunteers to help deliver leaflets and brochures, transport guests around (expenses will be provided), put out chairs in venues and much more.

There will also be 2 – 3 interim volunteer positions available to help with the organisation of the Festival as a whole; these positions will cover Event Management, Festival Organisation and Administration and will suit a student or graduate who is looking to gain some very valuable experience to put on their CV's. These positions will be based at the Festival Office in County House, St Mary's Street, Worcester WR1 1HB.

How Often Does the WLF Team Meet?

We meet as a group weekly on Mondays at 2.30pm at the Worcestershire Literary Festival office, County House, St Mary's Street, Worcester WR1 1HB, but if more volunteers come forward who can only make evenings, we will move these meetings to Monday nights.

How Much Time Can I Give?

The amount of time you can give the WLF is entirely up to you – you can dip in for a few hours as and when, help out in the evenings around childcare or other commitments, or join us in one of the vacant positions – the possibilities are endless.

If you are interested in one of the vacant positions, volunteering to assist in one or all of the areas mentioned or joining the Programming Team in order to make the first Worcestershire Literary Festival a huge success, please get in touch with Lisa Ventura, Festival Director & Founder via info@worcslitfest.com or call Ruth Inglis on 0845 652 0621/01905 24435. After a qualifying period there will be an opportunity for volunteers to become part of Worcestershire Festivals Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, which the Worcestershire Literary Festival will be a part of.

Interested? Want To Join Us?

Please download and fill in our Volunteer Application Form below and one of the team will be in touch as soon as possible:

[WLF Volunteer Application Form](#)

Return your completed form to Ruth Inglis (ruth@worcslitfest.com) – or post your completed form to:

Ruth Inglis
Festival Organiser – Administration
The Worcestershire Literary Festival
County House
St Mary's Street
Worcester
WR1 1HB

Still have questions or aren't sure this is for you?

Please call Lisa Ventura, Festival Director on 0845 652 0621 or 01905 24435, or email the Worcestershire Literary Festival office via info@worcslitfest.com.

This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved with your local community, to help shape the first ever Worcestershire Literary Festival and gain valuable experience in Festivals and event organisation.