

On the Write Lines

Nottingham &
Nottinghamshire

Literature Events in City and County

Issue 33

March–May 2007

2007 is the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade by Parliament throughout the former British Empire. This is being commemorated nationally, with major literature-related events, linking with libraries, museums, arts and cultural providers. This issue of *On the Write Lines* picks up on this anniversary, and our own plans for Nottinghamshire.

FREEDOM SHOWCASE

This is a new Literature Network Project in partnership with Mainstream Partnership, Apples and Snakes, Blackdrop, The Word, Sugar Shack, Derby City Council, Leicester City Council, and Nottingham City Council, and is supported by Three Cities Create and Connect, Arts Council England, ERDF and EMDA.

Nine artists from Nottingham, Leicester and Derby will be commissioned to create new work for a spoken word showcase to take place on Thursday 19 July, 2007 at the Phoenix Theatre in Leicester.

The showcase theme is 'Freedom', linked to the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. The selected writers will be teamed with two mentors (plus director), who will work with them individually and as a group to develop and enhance their writing/performance, over four workshops (two in March, two prior to the final showcase), which will be hosted by venues in each city. The project team includes the Nottingham City Literature Development Officers and local spoken word group, Black Drop.

To be considered for a commission, Nottingham performers must perform at Black Drop's performance night on Monday 5 March, and telephone to book their spot — see page 4 for details.

BLACK DROP

Black Drop are Nottingham's most successful poetry performance group, running a popular 'open mic' event at the Canal Bar, Canal Street, Nottingham, on the first Monday of every month. Michelle Hubbard, Lisa Jackson, and David (Stickman) Higgins are founder members of the group, and all three have a mixture of West Indian and Irish background, giving them a strong oral heritage. They will be performing at Nottingham's Council House on St Patrick's Day, 17 March (see page 4). The event also commemorates the bicentennial of the 1807 law abolishing slavery, St. Patrick, aged 16, having been first taken to Ireland as a slave.

BLACK DROP'S GREEN DROP

MICHELLE

I'm Irish-Jamaican: Irish mother from Shillelagh in the Wicklow Mountains, and Jamaican father — two very culturally rich backgrounds steeped in storytelling, folklore, music, and the oral tradition.



My roots, culture and heritage are the very things that make my work broad and varied, with many experiences to draw upon. It is no surprise that I'm a poet/storyteller, with so much to speak about from such a colourful perspective.

Proud of my dual-heritage and the special blend my Irish-Jamaican ancestry offers, I celebrate my diversity. I'm just as comfortable on St. Patrick's Day as I am on Marcus Garvey Day.

LISA

I've been aware of my Irish roots since childhood, although they were to some degree overshadowed by my Jamaican roots. My mother's father was from Ballymena, County Antrim, and has family all over Ireland. My mother used to make an amazing Irish stew. She would pass on stories about granddad's younger days in Ireland and would tell us about shamrock and leprechauns.

I remember noticing as a small child that my granddad's eyebrows were big, black and bushy, like massive spiky caterpillars perched on top of his eyes. When we quizzed my mother about them, she would say it was because he was Irish. My granddad is now in his 80s and still has magnificent eyebrows. He isn't a well man but he passionately tells many interesting tales of his life. The more he tells me, the more I realise how similar my Irish and Jamaican connections are. Ironically, some of what my granddad tells me provides impetus for one of the characters I write about — a West Indian man named Enus.

I visited Dublin a few years ago and had a great time. Some of my friends have Irish connections like me. We always head for Irish bars, and enjoy Irish dancing. I'm up for celebrating my heritage no matter which side of the spectrum is being looked at. People wouldn't automatically know that I'm part Irish, so it's nice to share

my experiences through storytelling and poetry. I'm extremely proud that my granddad is from Ireland and I would love to explore more about my Irish heritage. Both my Irish and Jamaican roots are important to me because they make me the person I am.

DAVE aka STICKMAN



I was born in Bury, Lancashire. My mother is from Barbados and my father's Irish roots come from Mayo, Sligo and Waterford. My father told me the O'Higgins emigrated in the 1800s, and settled in Shropshire. They were artisans and miners. My father's father, Grandad Norman, began work as a miner aged 15. His father was a soldier in the Lancashire Fusiliers, and survived the Boer War and the First World War. Part of the Higgins family moved to Bury in the late 1890s.

The Higgins family motto is PRO PATRIA: 'for the fatherland'. Our Irish ancestors are related to Don Ambrosio O'Higgins who was viceroy of Peru in the 18th century. His son Bernardo O'Higgins was known as the Liberator of Chile. Further back in Irish history, the Higgins clan was famous for its poets for over three centuries, but lost that prominence with the decline in native Irish language and literature.

Black Drop/Deirdre O'Byrne

SOUTHWELL POETRY FESTIVAL IS DEAD — LONG LIVE POETRY AT SOUTHWELL

Following the planned ending of Southwell Poetry Festival, poetry finally hit the front page (of the *Southwell Advertiser*) with the heading 'Poetry Festival Axed'. This caused a rethink and a number of groups have teamed up to bring about 'Poetry at Southwell'. Groups include Southwell Minster, Southwell Tourism Partnership, Southwell Town Council, Southwell Library, Churches Together in Southwell, *Leaves* magazine, Gallery 37 and three local writing groups.

The group agreed to theme its first year as 'Freedom'. This will start with some activities on 24 March (see page 5), including a performance by Lemn Sissay — co-incidentally around the anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. In the general summer Southwell Festival, there will be a community performance by writing groups in and near Southwell, with weekend activity in the autumn.

Interim contact remains 0115 9774435,
ross.bradshaw@nottsc.gov.uk

FOR WRITERS

MO-MENTUM

Mo-mentum is offering bookable spaces for writers, with optional mentoring. Info: Maureen@mo-mentum.fsnet.co.uk or SAE to Mo-mentum PO Box 177, Notts NG3 5SU.

TRIPOD

The new TRIPOD magazine, showcasing regional writing, will be available free from March from Cathy Grindrod or Deirdre O'Byrne. Submissions for the July issue will need to be sent to TRIPOD by June — details in the magazine.

WRITERS' STUDIO

After six months, the group running the Nottingham Writers' Studio has settled in and is planning ways of retaining existing members and enlarging the membership. Membership currently includes novelists, playwrights, copy writers, poets, a screenwriter, a couple of publishers, a freelance journalist and a reviewer for the broadsheets. Many of the members were unknown to each other before joining. The Studio is not a private club, but membership is aimed at those who are working as professional writers, though not necessarily full time. Members can rent exclusive or shared office space, at cost, or, for £50 a year, can use the Studio for business meetings, take part in the Studio programme or simply drop in for coffee and a read of the latest literary papers.

The management group is now setting up a series of 'continuous professional development' (CPD) talks by members for members to learn more about the detail of each others' sectors and is exploring CPD events run by outsiders on issues ranging from voice coaching to accountancy for writers.

The group is also working out ways of discussing members' work-in-progress and getting creative feedback on their current new work, as well as exploring ways of showcasing their work publicly.

The aims of the Studio range from simply providing affordable offices for those who cannot or prefer not to work at home, providing a social space for professional writers to meet and a new way of writers developing their own skills. With an orientation to writers making a living from their work the Studio is not for everyone, but our thriving local literature culture needs our professional writers to be the most economic small businesses as possible.

The Studio is in Nottingham city centre. Unfortunately at the moment the rented building is spread over three floors without a lift. The group is self-supporting, and has no staff. If the Studio membership takes off better, more accessible premises will be sought.

Finally, given that *OWL* is read across the region, there may be a later two-tier membership system offering a cheaper rate for those out of County (or even at the other end of the County) who may want to access training and other events but could not come to the Studio regularly.

INFO ON WRITERS' STUDIO:
nottinghamwritersstudio@gmail.com

GETTING CREATIVE WITH EDWINSTOWE BOOK GROUP

Edwinstowe Book Group has always been a lively reading group, and was confident enough to run a workshop at the City/County Readers Day. The library-based group is long-standing, its members including people active in local history, local politics and — in one case —

the publishing industry. The group is mostly female, currently. Members team up regularly for outings to theatre and other literature events.

A couple of years ago the group published *A Creative Dictionary of Edwinstowe*, based loosely on the idea of *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* (Brewer being one of several Edwinstowe literary figures). The book included fiction, poetry, memoir and other non-fiction and was facilitated by the Nottingham novelist, Stephan Collishaw. The Dictionary is now in its second printing, and group members are building up towards a second publication — a personal memoir of dating. Members discovered that they had dated in the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and 00s (individually — not collectively) and thought it would be interesting to record similarities and differences in style.

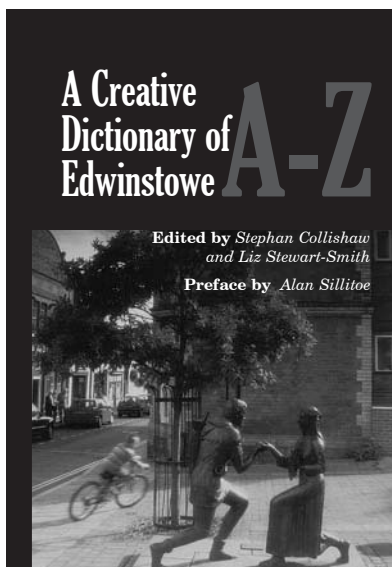
The group has a creative writing taster session at Edwinstowe Library from 1.30pm on 24 February, perhaps too late for *OWL* readers, but it will be followed by a six-week course in the autumn to brush up members' own writing skills, and to bring in new members.

The proceeds of the Dictionary are being put towards promoting literature in the area, but the group is finding it surprisingly hard to spend the money. Most of the writers approached can never make it — but when they do book up an author, the publisher offers to pay for all the costs. What a dreadful position to be in!

On 18 June, the Group is holding a big event on the life of Cecil Day-Lewis, the former Poet Laureate, who lived in Edwinstowe where his father was vicar. The lecturer is Peter Stanford, former editor of the *Catholic Herald*, whose major biography on C Day-Lewis will be published this year. Full details in the next *OWL*.

Whatever creative projects the group initiates, the monthly book discussion will not be lost — this being the beating heart of the group.

For further information, please contact 0115 9774435.



NOTTINGHAM IRISH READING GROUP

Who are the Irish Reading Group?

People interested in Irish literature. Some of us met on a short course on Irish writers a couple of years ago, and set up this group to expand our reading. It has also widened our circle of friends.

Must I be Irish to join?

No – everyone is welcome.

Do I have to attend every meeting?

No. Come as often (or as seldom) as suits you.

Who chooses the books?

Group members suggest books – all have equal say.

Name some authors you've read so far

John Banville, Paul Durcan, Anne Enright, Jennifer Johnston, James Joyce, Molly Keane, Deirdre Madden, Patrick McCabe, Bernard O'Donoghue, William Trevor, Niall Williams.

Any controversial choices?

In The Forest by Edna O'Brien – loved by some, hated by others.

Most popular reads?

Reading in the Dark by Seamus Deane, and *A Long Long Way* by Sebastian Barry – both greatly admired by all.

What do members say?

'This is a really successful reading group and I enjoy it immensely. The descriptions and stories are given added depth through the remembered events and pasts of group members. People make a real commitment to reading the books and participating in discussions.'

Anne

How do I join?

Just turn up. We meet on the last Wed in the month in Angel Row library café in Nottingham, 7.30–8.50pm. It's free, and friendly.

Next meetings?

See page 8.

More info: deirdre.obyrne@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, 0115 9158737.

NOTTINGHAM IRISH STUDIES GROUP run regular events on Irish literature, with the support of Nottingham City and County Literature and Reading Development Officers.

Join our mailing list – contact:

Deirdre.obyrne@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

ross.bradshaw@nottsc.gov.uk

sheelagh.gallagher@nottsc.gov.uk

All have Irish connections, though that's not the only reason they are interested in Irish writing.

LITERATURE EVENTS

LATE FEBRUARY

MON 26: A PALESTINE AFFAIR

West Bridgford Library, Bridgford Road,
West Bridgford, Nottingham: 8.00pm

American novelist Jonathan Wilson talks about and reads from his dark romantic mystery novel set in British-mandate Palestine just after WW1, as well as his forthcoming book on the painter, Marc Chagall.

Free. Refreshments. Info: 0115 9693597.

MARCH

THU 1 – WORLD BOOK DAY

Central Library, Angel Row, Nottingham

1.00-2.00pm: Black Drop poets Lisa Jackson and Michelle Hubbard (see page 1) perform. Book display featuring Black British writing, and topics relating to the bicentennial of slavery abolition. Free. All welcome.

2.00pm: Discussion of the novel *Scared to Live* by Derbyshire crime writer Stephen Booth. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome. Info: Jane on 0115 9152813.

FRI 2-SUN 4 – FLICKS IN THE STICKS 6

Village Hall, Main Street, Lowdham

An annual weekend of films-based-on-books, ranging from new films (*Miss Potter*, *The History Boys*) to classic adaptations (*Rebecca*). This year the introductions and talks have been put to one side, pending the establishment of a film club/group based in the village.

Flicks is based in the blacked-out village hall, with 35mm projection and large screen. Tickets around £4-£5 per showing/£3-£4 concessions and Friends of Lowdham Book Festival. Info/programme: 0115 9664143 or www.lowdhamfilmfestival.info

MON 5 – BLACK DROP

Canal House Bar, Canal St, Nottingham:
8.00pm

Arrive early if you wish to perform as demand for open mic slots at this event will be high. Featuring Johnzi D and John Bercovitch. £2.00. NB: Scouts looking for artists wishing to write for Freedom Showcase project. If you would like to perform with a view to selection for commissions (see page 1), please contact 07910 845598.

MON 12 – 20TH CENTURY WORKS!

Keyworth Library: 7.00pm

John Lucas speaks on *The Waste Land* by TS Eliot.

£3/£15 for series of six. Info and bookings: 0115 9373509/Sheelagh.gallagher@nottscc.gov.uk

MON 12-SUN 18 OUTSPOKEN! PERFORMANCE POETRY FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE The Old Library Arts Centre, Mansfield

Mon 12: SPEAK EASY! – Teacher Training Workshops for Key Stage 2 teachers run by performance poet, Steve Carroll. Ideas for using poetry performance in the classroom. Free.

Tue 13-Fri 16: SPEAK UP! – Creating and Performing Poetry Workshops for primary schools (age 7+) run by Steve Carroll and Lindsey Warnes Carroll. Free.

Wed 14, 4.30-6.30pm: SPEAK OUT! – Creating and Performing Poetry Workshops for 11-14 year olds. Free.

Wed 14, 7.00-9.00pm and Fri 16, 5.30-7.30pm: SPEAK OUT! – Workshop with Steve Carroll for 15-19 year olds to create, perform & record their own poetry.

All events free. Info and bookings:

sam.holgate-davey@nottscc.gov.uk/0115 9774435.

SAT 17 – ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Events organised by Literature Development and Irish Studies Group.

All workshops are free, all welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

TELL US A STORY

Central Library, Angel Row, Nottm: 11.30-12 noon

— Irish storytime & card-making for children.

1.30-2.15: WHO IS THIS? – WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Nottingham Council House, Old Market Square
(same venue for all events below)

Writing about yourself with poet and performer Steve Carroll, whose father was from Co Louth. Steve was adopted as a baby and also has Irish birth parents. His writing deals with identity and place from a personal perspective.

2.15-3.15: BLACK DROP'S GREEN DROP

(All ages welcome)

Michelle 'Mother' Hubbard and David 'Stickman' Higgins, from Black Drop poetry group, will perform their own work and talk about their Irish and other cultural connections. (see page 1).

3.15-4PM: WHO DID YOU SAY YOU WERE AGAIN?

Workshop for children and young people.

Writing about yourself with poet and performer Steve Carroll (See 1.30pm info above). Time to explore your sense of Irishness.

4.00-4.30: TELL US ANOTHER

More Irish stories & card-making for children, led by Deirdre O'Byrne from Co Carlow.

Free puzzle and quiz sheets, and pictures for children to colour.

Info: 0115 9158737.

LITERATURE EVENTS

MON 19 – 20TH CENTURY WORKS!

Keyworth Library: 7.00pm

Jacek Laskowski speaks on *The Secret Agent* by Joseph Conrad. £3/£15 for series of six.
Info and bookings: 0115 9373509/
sheelagh.gallagher@nottscc.gov.uk

SAT 24 — POETRY AT SOUTHWELL STAND AND DELIVER

Trebeck Hall, Bishop's Drive, Southwell:

12.15pm onwards for light refreshments,
12.45pm-2.00pm readings

Bring one of your own or your favourite poems on the theme of Freedom.
£1 on the door.

POETRY WORKSHOPS ON THE SUBJECT OF FREEDOM

**Trebeck Hall, Bishop's Drive, Southwell:
2.30pm-5.00pm**

Two separate workshops for primary children and adults. Limited numbers, pre-booking advised. Refreshments included.
Children (older primary children only): £2 each.
Adults: £3 each.
Please reserve places on 0115 9774435.

LEMN SISSAY IN PERFORMANCE

Southwell Library, Bramley Centre, King Street, Southwell: 7.30pm

Lemn Sissay kicks off the first of the Poetry at Southwell performances, on the theme of Freedom, of course. Lemn Sissay is a consummate performer of his work, much of which is rooted in his African background. He is currently the writer in residence at the Royal Festival Hall. He has presented a number of TV documentaries, appears regularly on Radio 4, and is the youngest 'Grumpy Old Man' on TV.

This reading commemorates the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. www.lemnsissay.com
Tickets: £6/£5 from Southwell Library, 01636 812148.

MON 26 – 20TH CENTURY WORKS!

Keyworth Library: 7.00pm

Jane Bluett speaks on *Howard's End* by EM Forster. £3/£15 for series of six.
Info and bookings: 0115 9373509/
sheelagh.gallagher@nottscc.gov.uk

APRIL

MONDAY EVENINGS IN APRIL 2007 – 20TH CENTURY WORKS!

Keyworth Library: 7.00pm

Continuing this series of lively and thought-provoking events celebrating some of the most challenging works of the twentieth century. The speakers have all chosen their own subjects and will inspire you to share their enthusiasm.

- 2 April** Ann Hardwick on
Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys
- 23 April** Mike Wilson on
Collected Works of Bertolt Brecht
- 30 April** Peter Preston on
Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

£3/£15 for series of six.

Info and bookings: 0115 9373509/
sheelagh.gallagher@nottscc.gov.uk

SAT 21: GEORGE AND WILLIAM

**Central Library, Angel Row, Nottingham:
11.30am-12.30pm**

Looking forward to 23 April — St George's Day and the birthday of William Shakespeare? Celebrate these two cultural icons early with Rosie Garner, who will read her new St. George poem and other work. Pick up a poem to take away. Free.

MAY

SAT-SUN 5-6 – WAY OUT FESTIVAL

Rufford Country Park, Ollerton: 10.00am-5.00pm daily
Lots of participatory stalls (shy coconuts, throw a goldfish and win a ping pong ball), street theatre, music and this and that. Literature activities include a 'Reading Room' and the world premiere of the set-in-Rufford Helen Cresswell children's novel *The Secret World of Polly Flint* performed by a youth theatre.

Free (£3 car parking charge at site).
Info/programme: 01623 825021.

19-25 – ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

Look out for events in Nottingham City Libraries featuring traditional tales and stories from Nottingham's diverse communities.

LOOKING AHEAD

JUNE 23-30 LOWDHAM BOOK FESTIVAL —

Nottinghamshire's biggest literature event

Eight days of readings, lectures and events for children and adults including a 'Readers' Day' sponsored by Bloomsbury. The initial weekend will have a sports focus (including an active sports programme — oh yes!). The Festival ends, as always, with a huge book fair and dozens of free literature events, including — just in — WH Auden for Beginners.

www.lowdhambookfestival.co.uk

LITERATURE EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS

TUE 13 MAR – POETRY EVENING WITH MUSIC

The Maze, Forest Tavern, Mansfield Rd: 8.00pm
DIY Poets present a poetry evening with music from EWF and Viva Brutalista.
£1.50 entry.

SAT 17 MAR – KATEY – THE ARTISTIC DICKENS

Nottingham Mechanics, N. Sherwood St: 2.30pm
Lecture by Lucinda Hawksley Dickens — great, great, great granddaughter of Charles Dickens and author of recently published biography of Dickens' daughter, Katey. Tickets: £2. Info: 0115 9845375.

STORYTELLERS OF NOTTINGHAM

Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, Nottingham: 8.00pm

29 March Tales of Old Nottingham

26 April Demons, Devils and Dark Things

31 May Drinking Stories.

£3 on the door. Info: Pete Davis on 0115 9558054.

IN SEARCH OF PONTIFLUNK – BY PHIL SMITH

A book published almost exactly a hundred years ago is the inspiration for a new play by New Perspectives. This Easter, Phil will be walking and talking his way across the East Midlands, retracing the steps of the extraordinary real life journey that Charles Hurst undertook on foot, planting hundreds of acorns he had harvested in Sherwood Forest the year before. Join the walk and feed into the research for a new play. Phil's itinerary will be published online at www.newperspectives.co.uk. Info: 0115 9272334.

UNIQUE & ORIGINAL TOURS WITH EZEKIAL BONE

Character-led storytelling tours based on historical fact.

GUTS & GORE TOUR

Stand where horrible history happened on the terrible truth trail around the historic Lace Market. Murder, execution, body-snatching, misery and mayhem!

March Sun 4 Wed 21

April Sun 1 Wed 18

May Sun 6 Wed 9 Sun 20 Wed 23

£5 Adults/£3 Under 14s. Booking: 07941 210986. Please call to reserve place as Tour may be cancelled if numbers are low.

MAGIC LANTERN BACKSTAGE TOUR

Tread the boards and see behind the scenes at the Theatre Royal and Royal Concert Hall.
Wheelchair accessible.

March Sat 10

April Sat 21

May Sat 5 Sat 26

Tickets: £3.50. Booking : 0115 9895555.

More details: www.bone-corporation.co.uk

FURTHER AFIELD

SAT 10 MAR – IMAGES OF WOMEN BY WOMEN

The Peepul Centre, Orchardson Ave, Leicester, LE4 6DP: 10am-4 pm

Morning poetry writing workshops open to women only (max 12), led by Jean Binta Breeze, Catherine Byron, Carol Leeming and Myra Schneider. 2.00-4.00pm: Open poetry reading with readings by poets featured in the *Images of Women* anthology (pub Arrowhead), open to all. Free.

£8/£6 for workshops (includes lunch).

Info and bookings: 0116 2702661/

soundswrite@ntlworld.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Five Leaves Publications, which has gained £89,500 from Grants for the Arts. The money will be spent over three years, and is reserved for project management, marketing and title subsidy/ working capital. Five Leaves' priorities in spending the money include an increase in material in translation, a new imprint — Crime Express — and a greater regional representation on its list. Five Leaves has been running for twelve years without any paid staff.

www.fiveleaves.co.uk



John Harvey has won the Crime Writers' Association Cartier Diamond Dagger for lifetime achievement, and sustained excellence in the field of crime writing. This will be awarded in a ceremony at London's Savoy Hotel some time in May. Previous winners of the award include PD James, John le Carré, Ruth Rendell, Colin Dexter, Sara Paretsky, Ian



Rankin and, most recently, Elmore Leonard. *Gone to Ground*, the most recent John Harvey novel, was published in hardcover by William Heinemann in February and John Harvey will be writing the first Crime Express book for Five Leaves.

<http://www.thecwa.co.uk>

OTHER EVENTS

COURSES

6 MAR-15 MAY – NOTTINGHAM PLAYGOERS

The Nottingham Mechanics, North Sherwood Street: 7.00-9.00pm

New name for long-running group. Seeking enthusiasts who like to read plays, visit theatre, and discuss afterwards (www.freewebs.com/playgoing).

Fee £48. Info: John Rivers (Tutor – 01773 603181).

Enrolments: Sue Cullen (suecullen@ntlworld.com/tel 0115 8478423) or Sue Close

(susan.close1@btinternet.com/tel 01332 873090).

5 MAY – WRITING FICTION FOR WOMEN'S MAGAZINES

Mo-mentum Day Course 'Writing Fiction for Women's Magazines with Sue Houghton & Mo Richardson.

Info: Maureen@mo-mentum.fsnet.co.uk

or SAE to Mo-mentum PO BOX 177, Notts NG3 5SU.

12 MAY – WRITING DRAMA FOR TELEVISION

Mo-mentum Day Course 'Writing Drama For Television' with Chrissie Hall & Mo Richardson

Info: Maureen@mo-mentum.fsnet.co.uk

or SAE to Mo-mentum PO BOX 177, Notts NG3 5SU.

13 MAY – BEGINNING STORYTELLING

Arnold Library: 10.00am-4.00pm

Performance techniques, memorising, and a host of tips for anyone who wishes to get up and do their thing in public. Led by Nottingham Storytellers.

£20 including lunch. Info: Pete Davis on 0115 9558054.

19 MAY – WRITING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottm: 10.00am-4.00pm

Sarah Mussi, author of *The Door of No Return* (Hodder & Stoughton), leads a writing workshop on plot structure and characterisation. Advice on preparing and submitting manuscripts. Lunch will be included in the price.

Info: ruth_eastham@yahoo.com

(Nottm Children's Writers).

CREATIVE WRITING AND LITERARY STUDIES (UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM)

The following short courses are still taking enrolments for classes starting in May 2007. They are held at the Adult Education Centre on Shakespeare Street in the centre of Nottingham or at Jubilee Campus on Wollaton Road.

CREATIVE WRITING:

Ref: N039 Music Journalism

Ref: N040 Writing for Publication

Ref: N041 Writing a Short Film

Ref: N042 Reading for writing

Ref: N043 Writing the Short Story

Ref: N044 Creative Writing: Developing Skills

Ref: N045 Writing for Radio

LITERARY STUDIES:

Ref: N059 Introduction to Poetry

Ref: N060 Literature into Film:

Thomas Hardy and the Visual Arts

Info: 0115 9516516.

University of Nottingham Adult Education Centre, 14 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, NG1 4FQ.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/education

COMPETITIONS

Newark Poetry Society now has a website: www.newarkpoetrysociety.co.uk The Society's annual open poetry competition has been won, for the second year running, by Christopher North who lives in Spain. The judge had changed and entries are anonymous, so he must be doing something right... WH Petty was second, with local poet Jeremy Duffield winning third prize. The 2007 open competition is already on their website.

WRITING GROUPS

DIY Poets meet on Tue 20 Feb, 20 Mar and 17 April, at the Peacock pub on Mansfield Road, Nottingham at 8.00pm.

Mo-mentum Weekly Writers Groups.

Details from Maureen@mo-mentum.fsnet.co.uk or SAE to Mo-mentum, PO Box 177, Notts NG3 5SU.

Nottingham Poetry Society meets at 2.45pm at Nottingham Mechanics, North Sherwood St, Nottm, on

24 Mar Poetry Writing Workshop

28 Apr Poetry Reading by CJ Allen

26 May Poetry Slam

Everyone welcome. £2. Info: 01773 712282.

Nottingham Writers' Club meets at Nottingham Mechanics, North Sherwood Street at 7.00pm on

7 Mar John Lucas – Behind the Scenes at Shoestring Press

21 Mar Verse of the Year – 16-lines on 'Murder' to be judged by audience vote

4 Apr AGM

18 Apr Bring your work for constructive comment

2 May Sheelagh Gallagher workshop on 'Raw Material'

Info: 0115 9817661.

Sherwood Writers' Group meets at The Place, 2a Melrose St, Nottingham at 7.30pm on 9 Mar, 13 Apr and 11 May. All welcome. Info: Jeremy on 0115 9621453.

If you would like to join an electronic mailing list to be sent information about literature events, please email ross.bradshaw@nottscc.gov.uk. This way you can hear about events too late for publication in *On the Write Lines*, and be kept informed about new opportunities.

READING and Related GROUPS

Asian Reading Group information from:

Gujarati: Mr Samani, 0115 9286122
Hindi: Mrs Verma 0115 9422622
Punjabi: Mr Dhaliwal 0115 9163848
Urdu: Mr Masud 0115 9158835
General info: Mrs Rekha Vasishta on 0115 9151191.

Aspley Book Group

meets at Aspley Library at 2.00pm on
16 Mar *Gentlemen and Players* by Joanne Harris
20 Apr *Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai
18 May *Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan

Bakersfield Reading Group

meets at Bakersfield Library on at 5.00pm on
2 Mar *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova
30 Mar *Human Traces* by Sebastian Faulks
4 May *One For the Money* by Janet Evanovich
Info: 0115 9150199.

Bilborough Reading Group

meets at Bilborough Library at 10.30am on
14 Mar *These Foolish Things* by Deborah Moggach
18 Apr *Darkness and Light* by John Harvey
16 May *The Island* by V Hislop
Info: 0115 9151171.

Central Library Readers Group

meets at 5.00pm at Central Library, Nottingham on
6 Mar *Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai
3 Apr *Tenderness of Wolves* by Stef Penny
1 May Orange Prize Shortlist

Clifton Reading Group

meets at Clifton Library at 10.30am on
15 Mar *Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Bronte
12 Apr *All Bones and Lies* by Anne Fine
17 May *The Zigzag Way* by Anita Desai
All welcome. Info: 0115 9152945.

Crime Readers Group

meets at 2.00pm at Central Library, Nottingham on
27 Mar *Full Dark House* by Christopher Fowler
24 Apr *Back to Bologna* by Michael Dibdin
22 May *Underneath Every Stone* by Paula Gosling

Irish Reading Group

meets at Central Library, Nottingham on
28 Mar *Paula Spencer* by Roddy Doyle
25 Apr *Mothers and Sons* by Colm Toibin
30 May *Grace Notes* by Bernard MacLaverty
Info: deirdre.obyrne@nottinghamcity.gov.uk,
0115 9158737. See page 3.

Mapperley Library Readers Group

meets first Tuesday in the month at Mapperley Library.
Info: Terry on 0115 9267008.

Nottingham Dickens Fellowship meets up to May on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 2.30-4.30pm at Nottingham Mechanics, North Sherwood Street.

Currently reading *Great Expectations*. New members welcome. Info: Kathy Powis on 0115 9845375.

Poetry Reading Group meets at Central Library,

Nottingham from 7.30-8.50pm on
15 Mar TS Eliot
19 April *District & Circle* by Seamus Heaney
17 May Black British Poetry
Info: deirdre.obyrne@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
0115 9158737. All welcome. Free.

Page Turners Reading Group

meets at Sherwood Library from 6.30-7.30pm on the first Friday of each month. Info: 0115 9151155.

St Anns Library Reading Group

meets at 12 noon on
14 Mar 'The Book of the Film'
18 Apr *Arthur and George* by Julian Barnes

Talking Goat Reading Group meets at The Peacock on Mansfield Road, Nottingham at 7.30pm on the third Wed of the month. All welcome. Info: 07970248217.

Wilford Reading Group meets at 7.30pm at Wilford Library on

8 Mar *Night Watch* by Sarah Waters
12 Apr *The Island* by V Hislop
10 May *Spanish Steps* by T Moore

Wollaton Day Reading Group

meet at 2.30pm at Wollaton Library on
7 Mar *Kite Runner* by Hosseini
4 Apr *Pompeii* by Robert Harris
2 May Life and Work of Thomas Hardy

Wollaton Evening Reading Group

meet at 7.30pm at Wollaton Library on
13 Mar *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
17 Apr *The Other Side of You* by Salley Vickers
8 May *Small Island* by Andrea Levy

For further information on literature in general, or to receive regular copies of this newsletter by post, please contact: Cathy Grindrod (City Officer) on 0115 9158737, e-mail: cathy.grindrod@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or Ross Bradshaw (County Officer) on 0115 9774435, e-mail: ross.bradshaw@nottscc.gov.uk.

Please send full details of any literature events you are running in June, July & August 2007, by Fri 30 April to Cathy Grindrod, DOLACS, Nottingham City Council, Isabella Street, Nottingham, NG1 6AT.
e-mail cathy.grindrod@nottinghamcity.gov.uk



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