Welcome to Libraries NI’s first Festival of Words!

Festival of Words is a celebration of words through literature, poetry and storytelling and a programme of events is taking place in libraries across Northern Ireland during the month of October 2013.

You are invited to sample a range of events such as creative writing and poetry workshops, author readings, storytelling evenings and drama performances.

Come along and enjoy these free events – you don’t have to be a member of the library service to attend, but when you’re in the library, why not sign up and get free library membership. As a library member you can avail of our wide range of free services for people of all ages.

Hazel Philson is an accomplished storyteller who has performed in many venues across Northern Ireland. An evening of banter and laughter is guaranteed as Hazel recounts stories and yarns from yesteryear.

If you ask, she might even tell you about her recent experience on Deal or No Deal!

Contact

t: 028 7134 2963

Christina McKenna is an author who was born and raised in Draperstown. She attended the Belfast College of Art where she obtained an honours degree in Fine Art and studied postgraduate English at the University of Ulster.

Christina writes both non-fiction and fiction. Her first book, a memoir, My Mother Wore a Yellow Dress was published in 2004 and was followed by non-fiction titles including Ireland’s Haunted Women. She penned her first novel The Disremembered Man in 2008.

An Evening of Storytelling with Hazel Philson

Wednesday 2 October

7:00pm

Waterside Library

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At these three events, Christina will launch her book The Disenchanted Widow which is the sequel to The Disremembered Man. This book has been launched in America and at present is only available in the United Kingdom as an eBook. However, printed copies will be available to purchase on the night.

Contact

t: 028 7963 2278

e: magherafelt.library@librariesni.org.uk

Contact

t: 028 9127 0591

e: bangorcarnegie.library@librariesni.org.uk

Contact

t: 028 9263 3350

e: lisburncity.library@librariesni.org.uk

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A talk by Paul Murray, former Ambassador and author of From the Shadow of Dracula: A Life of Bram Stoker. Although best known for his novel Dracula, Bram Stoker wrote twelve novels, in the genres of gothic, horror, adventure and romance, with his final book published in 1911. Paul Murray takes us through the life and times of Bram Stoker whose work still remains relevant today.

Contact

t: 028 6632 2886
e: enniskillen.library@librariesni.org.uk

Thursday 3 October
6:00pm
Enniskillen Library

The Creative Mind of a Genius
Bram Stoker

Festival Fiction

Brian McGilloway is a popular author from Derry. His titles include Borderlands, Little Girl Lost, Gallows Lane and the Inspector Devlin Series. Brian will read from his books and meet with the audience for what promises to be a lively discussion.

Contact

t: 028 7188 3686
e: strabane.library@librariesni.org.uk

Saturday 5 October
2:30pm
Strabane Library

Take three published poets, add three workshops, add three heaped spoonfuls of lively discussion and what do you get? Couplets or a tiered Victoria sonnet? We have the recipes but it's up to you to mix it up!

Workshops 10:30am - 1:00pm
Booking essential for workshops as places are limited.

After each workshop there will be an open session from 2:30pm - 4:00pm offering all participants an opportunity to listen to readings and ask the poets questions.

Contact

t: 028 7963 2278
e: magherafelt.library@librariesni.org.uk

Saturday 5 October
10:30am - 1:00pm
Magherafelt Library

Take Three Poetry Workshops, followed by Open Discussion with poets Chelley McLear, Denise Blake and Moyra Donaldson

Chelley McLear
Using the five senses
If you've always wanted to write a poem but didn't know how to start, this is the workshop for you. During this fun and easy-going session you'll use your five senses to write a poem and go home with a tried and tested technique that you can use for future writing.

Contact

t: 028 4062 3973
e: banbridge.library@librariesni.org.uk

Saturday 12 October
10:30am - 1:00pm
Banbridge Library

Take Three Poetry Workshops, followed by Open Discussion with poets Chelley McLear, Denise Blake and Moyra Donaldson

Denise Blake
Telling your stories through poetry
"Write as you know" is advice often given to writers. What better place to begin than with your own stories? Throughout this relaxed and enjoyable workshop Denise will use prompts to trigger ideas that may become poems. You will be surprised at the stories that appear during the workshop.

Contact

t: 028 4062 3973
e: banbridge.library@librariesni.org.uk

Saturday 12 October
10:30am - 1:00pm
Banbridge Library

Moyra Donaldson
Perfecting your poems
When you have your creative ideas down on paper, what are the skills you will need to make your poem the best it can be? This workshop will look at the self-editing process. Participants should bring along copies of one or two poems which will then be discussed in a supportive atmosphere.
Brian Rankin will enthral all present with recitations of his amusing self-penned poetry and tales from his rural roots in County Londonderry. Brian has published three books to date all of which raise money for charity work in Africa through Africare, a small Northern Ireland charity. Brian was inspired to produce these books following a charity trip to Uganda in 2004.

Contact t: 028 7186 0385 e: strathfoyle.library@librariesni.org.uk

Enjoy an introduction to creative writing with published writer and winner of several short story competitions, Anne Harris. Anne's career to date includes a play performed on RTE, runner-up in the Brian Moore Short Story competition and the prestigious national Ian St James Short Story competition. Booking essential as places are limited.

Contact t: 028 2563 3950 e: ballymena.library@librariesni.org.uk

Soul, guitar and singer Paul Casey is constantly in demand in his home country, performing for enthusiastic fans with a challenging near-daily schedule. In 2010, Paul made major waves in the United Kingdom after playing to a total of 50,000 fans on an epic 23 date tour, supporting legendary guitarist and 30 million album selling Chris Rea. The tour took in venues such as Symphony Hall in Birmingham and the Hammersmith Apollo in London. Paul has performed on the same bill as Van Morrison, the John Butler Trio and Damien Rice. A tireless worker, prolific songwriter and engaging performer, Paul Casey is a musician for fans of real music.

Contact t: 028 7963 2278 e: magherafelt.library@librariesni.org.uk

Fiona Cassidy, author of Anyone For Me and Anyone For Seconds, has recently added another talent to her already impressive repertoire: scriptwriting. Fiona will present a workshop detailing how to get started and how to progress in this writing genre. Booking essential as places are limited.

Contact t: 028 3026 4683 e: newrycity.library@librariesni.org.uk

Declan Forde, a storyteller from County Tyrone writes, illustrates and performs his original stories, songs and poems at festivals all over Ireland. Bringing stories from yesteryear to life, we look forward to a wonderful evening of story and song.

Contact t: 028 8774 0569 e: coalisland.library@librariesni.org.uk

Stuart Neville is an award-winning crime writer. His debut novel, The Twelve was published in 2009. He has since published two sequels Colinson and Stolen Souls. Stuart's latest novel Retribus was published in January 2013.

Contact t: 028 9050 9150 e: belfastlending@librariesni.org.uk

Loud and Live in the Library with Paul Casey!

Creative Writing Workshop
Anne Harris

Storytelling
Declan Forde

Meet the Author
Stuart Neville

You Couldn’t Script It
Stuart Neville

Stories Worth Telling
Stuart Neville

Thursday 10 October
7:30pm
Newry City Library

Thursday 10 October
6:30pm
Coalisland Library

Tuesday 15 October
7:30pm
Belfast Central Library
Len Graham is one of Ireland’s best known traditional singers and storytellers and has appeared at numerous Irish and International Folk, Literary and Storytelling Festivals. Contact t: 028 9085 1157 e: rathcoole.library@librariesni.org.uk

Join us for an evening of storytelling with Liz Weir. Liz is one of Ireland’s best known storytellers with an international reputation from travelling the world telling stories to children and adults. Liz was the first winner of the International Storybridge Award from the National Storytelling Network. Contact t: 028 9050 9150 e: belfastlending@librariesni.org.uk

Denise Blake, published poet, will host a creative writing workshop, suitable for budding poets and those already well versed. Booking essential as places are limited. Contact t: 028 7135 4185 e: shantallow.library@librariesni.org.uk

Belfast Writers’ Group is based in the Morton Community Centre, Lorne Street, Belfast and is for writers of any medium whether prose, poetry or plays. As part of Studio NI’s Curing Cancer fundraising campaign the group has recently published “Ghosts in the Glass and other stories”, a collection of sixteen tales of the supernatural. Tonight the group will perform a selection of original short stories from their extensive repertoire. Contact t: 028 9048 5079 e: tullycarnet.library@librariesni.org.uk

Panel Discussion of The Man Booker Prize
Tuesday 15 October
8.45pm
Derry Central Library

Enjoy a panel discussion of the shortlisted titles, followed by the live announcement of the Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2013.

During the evening, the panel will include audience comments and participation. The panel will comprise: Liam Browne (Chair), Anita Robinson, Brian McCrory and Jenni Doherty.

For further information on the Man Booker Prize go to www钫manbookerprize.com

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Coole Crac
with Len Graham

Wednesday 16 October
5.30pm
Rathcoole Library

Len Graham is one of Ireland’s best known traditional singers and storytellers and has appeared at numerous Irish and International Folk, Literary and Storytelling Festivals.

Contact t: 028 5085 1157 e: rathcoole.library@librariesni.org.uk

City Tales
with Liz Weir

Thursday 17 October
7.30pm
Belfast Central Library

Join us for an evening of storytelling with Liz Weir. Liz is one of Ireland’s best known storytellers with an international reputation from travelling the world telling stories to children and adults. Liz was the first winner of the International Storybridge Award from the National Storytelling Network.

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Well Versed
Saturday 19 October
8.00pm
Shantallow Library

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Classic tales dramatized between the bookshelves as we delve into the wonderful worlds of Shakespeare, Austen and many more. This is a unique opportunity to savour the talents of a group of professional thespians.

Contact

t: 028 3833 6122
e: portadown.library@librariesni.org.uk

An opportunity to find out more about the Ulster-Scots language. This workshop will explore the background to the language, its links with Scots and its use today in Ulster. The evening will, through poetry and storytelling, provide a flavour of Ulster-Scots, delving into words and phrases that are used in our everyday speech. The event will give an opportunity to explore the potential of Ulster-Scots in poetry, creative writing and drama.

Contact

t: 028 9050 9212
e: fallsroad.library@librariesni.org.uk

With a combination of storytelling and theatrics, Victoria Gleason will present an evening of Victorian ghost stories. Victoria will enthral you with spooky tales to make your hair stand on end!

Contact

t: 028 9050 9150
e: belfastlending@librariesni.org.uk

What’s On

Other events and exhibitions take place throughout the year. Please ask staff for details.

For more information on how to use library services please ask staff for details or visit the Libraries NI website www.librariesni.org.uk

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