

What's On at Wenlock Books: May 2007

Literary Evenings at Marsh Barn Gallery

On Friday May 4th at 8pm we are hosting a visit from Anne Fine, former Children's Laureate: known for such modern classics as *Madame Doubtfire* and *Bill's New Frock*, she has won many awards including the Carnegie Medal and Whitbread Children's Award twice each, the Guardian Children's Fiction Award and the Smarties prize. Anne does not often appear at Festivals, so we are thrilled that she is coming to both Much Wenlock and Shrewsbury. The evening will follow our usual format of light refreshments, conversation, and reading, and we hope you will join us. Our conversation will cover not only Anne's writing, but her year as Children's Laureate, and her latest book Road of Bones in which she aims to show how politics can work to change society almost without us noticing, until we suddenly end up with something we never wanted.

We are delighted to be holding this event as part of the **Shrewsbury Bookfest**, and all proceeds from the evening will go towards funding future author visits to this highly acclaimed children's book festival. We are happy to welcome young people (aged 15+) to this event.

Tickets are £7.50 (£5 for teenagers) and available from the bookshop; all welcome. As parking is limited at the gallery, we will be asking you to share lifts!

Harry Potter!

Seven books, One story....

There are still some places left on the magical, midnight train ride! Tickets are £10 per adult, and £5 per child. The cost of the book is £17.99. Pre-booking is essential as the train will doubtless be fully booked as time goes on. This will be a night of a life-time! Don't even think about queuing in Telford, come and celebrate the end of the Harry Potter era: music, theatre, owls, magic, ghosts, wizards and a special surprise....!

Reading for Pleasure

This month we are reading *Beloved* by Toni Morrison in our reading groups, on May 9th (2pm) and May 23rd (7pm). One of the great classics of black American literature, and indeed of great literature regardless of any kind of boundary limitations. This is a novel that makes you change the way you feel about your place in the world. A shocking, and compelling read.

The children's reading groups will meet on May 4th and May 18th.

Our next Reading Day at Brook Cottage will take place on Sunday June 3rd, where we will be looking at "Books that changed our lives....!" All welcome, but please book as places are limited to ten. The day will start with coffee and homemade biscuits at 10.30, finish with tea and home-made scones at 4pm, and we will share food at lunchtime. In between all this eating there will be good conversation, lots of laughter and a chance to walk round our garden and woodland; a lovely day! £15.

Deaf Africa Fund

I am so delighted to be able to tell you that we raised just over £2000 for the Deaf Africa Fund at our World Music Concert at the Edge on Friday March 23rd. The concert was a sell out, and I would like to say a huge and heartfelt "Thank you" to everyone who supported the event; The Edge Arts Centre; Peter Hartley; Malenka; Shira; Driftwood; everyone who helped behind the scenes, and to everyone who bought a ticket, regardless of whether or not they could attend. Many thanks.

Exhibitions

During May I shall be exhibiting Katherine Chippendale's beautiful flower paintings, do call in and have a look! In June I am looking forward to launching an exhibition of flower photographs by Judy King – more details to follow.

Extra bits

On Tuesday June 5th I am speaking at the Much Wenlock Ladies Luncheon Club on the Art and Passion of Bookselling and on the same evening I shall be leading a circle dance session at Shipton Village Hall for the WI. (A change being as good as a rest!)

Thank you as always for all your support and encouragement,

Anna.