

Havant Literary Festival – January Newsletter

Dear Festival Supporter

The first Annual General Meeting of Havant Literary Festival Society was held this week and the appointment of the new Director **Elinor Errington** was confirmed. Elinor takes over immediately and will have overall responsibility for the 2009 Festival.

Speakers for 2009 were announced including **Fay Weldon, Maggie Gee, Stella Duffy** and children's author **Ian Whybrow** (of Harry & the Dinosaurs fame.)

Wordfest, a wonderful family-oriented event will take place on Sunday, 4 October at Staunton Country Park and will feature poetry, music and comedy.

The **2009 Festival** will have three sub-themes; these will not dominate the week but will weave in and out of the programme, complimenting and informing the content. The themes are:

Crime – always a hugely popular genre with both readers and writers. We will bring you a host of events on all aspects of crime writing, including a whole strand devoted to **Arthur Conan Doyle** who created the world's most famous detective just a few miles away, in Southsea. **Sherlock Holmes** is still the fictional character most often portrayed on stage and screen, beating Dracula, Frankenstein and even the ubiquitous Elizabeth Bennett to this distinction!

Water – has been an inspiration for artists and writers since time immemorial, in all its guises, from floodplains to teardrops. The Borough of Havant has a special affinity with water, as its history and economy are interwoven with the spring-dependent activities of parchment-making, tanning and brewing, and the saltwater industries of oyster and salt production and fishing. (Not to mention smuggling, which was useful source of income for some local denizens for at least four centuries.)

Pathways - this encompasses all forms of travel and more inward 'journeys', plus anything and everything to do with shoes! The newly-opened **Havant Arts and Heritage Centre** will feature a special exhibition throughout September featuring shoes and we are very pleased to be able to link with them. Look out for details of a special **Book Crossing** event, among many other shoe-related goodies!

Don't forget the **Little Literary Quiz** at the end of this newsletter - it's just for fun.

Back by popular demand – a **Grand Ceilidh** will be held at St Faith's Church Hall on Saturday, 25 April. Tickets will be on sale next month from Nineveh - early booking is strongly recommended! All proceeds from the evening will go towards Havant Literary Festival.

A series of five lectures, **Historic Reflections**, will take place at Nineveh, 11 The Pallant, Havant, on the third Monday of each month, beginning on 16 February. The cost is £5 or £20 subscription to the complete course, all proceeds to HLF. The first

session is by Jules and Tim Simmons and will explore the inter-relationship over the ages between science and art. For more details, contact events@nineveh.co.uk

Members who attended the Annual general Meeting on 27 January were treated to a talk by popular local historian, **Madeleine Selby**, on Arthur Conan Doyle in Portsmouth. We are hoping to tempt Madeleine back to Havant to repeat this excellent talk during the Festival proper and if we are successful, we recommend early booking! Madeleine's talk on **Nevil Shute** was a huge hit last year and sold out early.

TV producer, author and poetry lover **Daisy Goodwin** is calling for a return to reciting poetry aloud – something earlier generations were very familiar with, having been encouraged to learn poems off by heart as children. This sounds a great idea and it may be something that we feature in 2009. Watch this space!

If you would like to contribute or host an event in 2009, please contact the Festival Director at ronile.errington17@googlemail.com but hurry! The Festival programme is filling up fast.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday, 16 February - **Historic Reflections Lecture**

Saturday, 25 April 2009 - **Grand Ceilidh**

Friday, 25 September to Sunday, 4 October – **Havant Literary Festival 2009!**

Don't forget, you can meet all your Book Club or personal reading requirements at the Hayling Island Bookshop or Nineveh Bookshop and Gallery. In these difficult economic times, our local independent bookshops deserve our support more than ever.

If you aren't already a member of Havant Literary Festival Society, please join! Membership costs £5 a year and application forms are available from the **Membership Secretary** c/o this e mail address or pick one up from Nineveh Bookshop and Gallery, 11 The Pallant, Havant or from the Hayling Island Bookshop, Mengham Lane, Hayling Island. Thank you for your support.

Lucy
Newsletter Editor

It's all Happening in Havant - again!
Havant Literary Festival 2009 - 25 September - 4 October
Join the mailing list at hlfnewsletter@googlemail.com

Little Literary Quiz

This month all the questions are on Arthur Conan Doyle's most celebrated creation, Sherlock Holmes.

- 1 What was the very first Sherlock Holmes story?*
- 2 In the story Silver Blaze, what was Silver Blaze?*
- 3 What was the name of Sherlock Holmes' brother?*
- 4 Who was Mrs Hudson?*
- 5 What star sign was Sherlock Holmes?*

Answers next time!

Answers to last quiz:

- 1 Talk to the Hand, Lynne **Truss***
- 2 Crime title by Robert Goddard and Ngaio Marsh, **Hand in Glove***
- 3 One Pair of **Hands**, Monica Dickens*
- 4 The Laying on of Hands, **Alan Bennett***
- 5 The Tree of **Hands**, Ruth Rendell*

And the common link is a slightly lame homage to Chris Cleave's novel The Other Hand!