WREXHAM CARNIVAL OF WORDS 2020

23 APRIL - 2 MAY

Not just any literary festival!
Welcome to the Wrexham Carnival of Words Programme for 2020

This is our sixth year of presenting a varied range of the best literary events – all in our wonderful local venues.

There is something for everyone – from the latest crime thrillers to a heart-breaking story of mental illness. Discover the scientific basis of everyday modern life with the One Show’s Marty Jopson and enjoy storytelling through the music of Wrexham’s very own Luke Gallagher.

Discover the rich history of Wrexham and explore the wealth of historical fiction. Don’t miss our vibrant poetry events. Remember to book your tickets for the shows that will sell-out early including this year’s Murder Mystery with a scintillating script from Kate Ellis. And if that isn’t enough, test your knowledge of books in our entertaining literature quiz.

For families, we have activity-based events including our World Book Night Parade and Family Walking Day at Moss Valley.

Last year, we held a “Lunchtime Fringe” at Wrexham Library for the first time and it was so popular that it’s back again this year with an even broader range of authors.

Why not buy a Festival Ticket? It’s extremely good value at £30 and covers entrance to most events.

Our local Waterstones will have all the participating authors’ books on display from early April. Why not pick up your copy ahead of the event. Books will also be on sale at each event with our authors signing every copy in person.

Please check our website for the latest information as we’re still adding events to our exciting programme.

We look forward to seeing you at this year’s Carnival of Words. Keep reading!
WORLD BOOK NIGHT
Family Parade & Book Giveaway

Youngsters from Wrexham’s schools will be in a parade through town dressed as their favourite characters or books. The short parade will start from and finish at Wrexham Library and will be led through the town by local musicians.

LUKE GALLAGHER
Tales of a Troubadour

During his eight years of gigging and recording, Luke Gallagher has drawn inspiration from the people he knows, the people he meets and the stories he hears. For one very special evening, hear first-hand the stories behind his songs - and hear some of those songs from a whole new perspective!

Wrexham Library
LL11 1AU
FREE

Tŷ Pawb, Wrexham
LL13 8BY
£5.00

THURSDAY 23 APRIL
4.30pm

SATURDAY 25 APRIL
7.00pm
AMANDA PROWSE AND JOSH PROWSE
THE BOY BETWEEN: A Mother and Son's Journey From a World Gone Grey

Josh and his mother, best-selling author Amanda Prowse, tell their heart-breaking yet uplifting story of a young man’s journey into mental illness from smart, funny teenager embarking on university life to a boy on the edge, who planned when and how he would take his own life - and his fight to find himself again. It is a story of hope that provides answers and understanding to those who find themselves in a similar situation and are looking for help.

Wrexham Library
LL11 1AU

£8.00

JULIA FORSTER
Carving out a Writing Career

In this practical workshop, we'll cover the pros and cons of presenting your cover letter to agents and publishers in a 'query letter critique'. You’ll leave with top tips from industry professionals and recommendations for writer development strategies. With plenty of time for your questions, this will be relevant for writers of both prose and poetry. Julia has worked in publishing in London and Wales for over twenty years, as well as publishing two books.

Wrexham Library
LL11 1AU

£5.00
MATT HILTON
Putting the “thrill” into thriller

Best-selling author of more than twenty crime thrillers, Matt Hilton will talk about his thirty plus years’ path to overnight success, when publication of his breakthrough debut novel saw him give up his police career to write full time.

FRIDAY 24 APRIL
7.00pm

Wrexham Library
LL11 1AU
£8.00

NEIL SPRING
Master of the Psychological Chiller

Many of Neil Spring’s novels are inspired by real events from abandoned villages to UFO sightings in the Cold War. His debut novel, The Ghost Hunters, was adapted into a critically acclaimed television drama for ITV. The Burning House, set on the shores of Loch Ness, is his latest novel.

MONDAY 27 APRIL
7.00pm

Wrexham Library
LL11 1AU
£8.00

Sponsored by Cyril Jones & Co

CRIME CYMRU
More than you can imagine

A panel of exciting and innovative contemporary crime authors from Wales will talk about the latest trends in Crime Cymru – session chaired by Judith Barrow.

More than you can imagine

Master of the Psychological Chiller

Putting the “thrill” into thriller

CRIME CYMRU

Wrexham Library
LL11 1AU
£8.00

Sponsored by Cyril Jones & Co

Crime/Thrillers
Jim Kelly - creator of three award-winning crime series - explains what the genre demands. Jim’s latest creation – Detective Inspector Eden Brooke – is the hero of the Nighthawk series and he will also delve into his earlier Dryden Mysteries and the Shaw and Valentine books.

Back by popular demand this year’s event is bigger and better! Put your sleuthing skills to the test and experience what it’s like to investigate the most serious of crimes at our nail-biting Murder Mystery evening. Join us as you play detective for the night and help figure out ‘whodunnit?’

Bestselling crime writer Kate Ellis will also be making a guest appearance.
SUNDAY 25 APRIL
11.00am

HISTORY DAY
Six events with a focus on local history

11:00 - Local writer Peter Evans spins some yarns from his book about the Alun, Resurrection River

12:00 - Author Barbara Erskine chats about the weird and wonderful stories she’s uncovered while researching the history of the Welsh Marches

13:00 - Author Anthony Riches talks about the Romans in North East Wales, the research background to his novels, and the development of Hope’s Park in the Past project (includes re-enactments).

14:00 - Andrew Green shares the background to his amazing book Wales In A Hundred Objects

15:00 - A panel of authors talks about writing the history of Wrexham and North East Wales

16:00 - Stories and Poems of the Royal Welch Fusiliers (includes re-enactments), plus Special Guest appearance by military historian Peter Doyle, author of Percy: A Story of 1918.

There will be displays and exhibitions from local history groups in the Memorial Hall’s side rooms.

Memorial Hall
LL12 7AG

£20 day ticket
£5 individual event

History - Fact
The Celtic Coracle Debate
A delicate balance of comedy and lecture as three characters from Celtic literature and/or mythology (represented by our guest authors) are stranded on a storm-tossed island with only a one-person coracle for escape to civilisation. Be in the audience and decide which one of them should survive!

Wrexham Library
LL11 1AU

£8.00

ELIZABETH CHADWICK
“BUILDING BRIDGES: How I write Historical Fiction”

Award-winning and best-selling author Elizabeth Chadwick will talk about how she brings the medieval world to life in her fiction, and how she works with the demands of storytelling and history to satisfy the needs of both. Don’t miss this chance to meet the award-winning author of Templar Silks, which takes us back to the time of the Crusades, and The Irish Princess, her latest gripping tale.
Conversations with R.S. THOMAS
David Subacchi & Peter Read

Wrexham-based writers and poets Peter Read and David Subacchi read from the Collected Poems of Welsh poet R.S. Thomas in the atmospheric surroundings of St Giles Parish Church Wrexham. Peter and David also present some of their own poetry inspired by R.S. Thomas and in answer to themes dealt with by this world-famous poet. Expect some challenges and humour as well as excellent poetry read well by experienced poets and performers.

St Giles Church (South Aisle)
LL13 8LS

£5.00

Viva Voce is an established literary open mic event in Wrexham for any writer or poet to read their work in the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere of Stockwell Café.

The evening is presented by local author and poet Paul Clifton and will feature special guest readers. The evening will also feature guest readings from the newly-published anthology celebrating the poetry of Viva Voce.

Stockwell Café,
St. Christopher’s School,
Stockwell Grove,
LL13 7BW
FREE
A glimpse at the areas and characters of Border Town - Wrexham Through the Seasons in a brand new piece of Welsh language writing by Aled Lewis Evans. This work won the Crown at the 2019 Powys Eisteddfod. Musical interludes will be provided by singer Arwel Tanat.

This event is in Welsh

Catrin Finch Centre
Wrexham Glyndŵr University
LL11 2AW
£5.00

What the Dickens?
A literary quiz with a little bit of everything. Do you think you know your Rebus from your Poirot or your Bilbo from your Aslan? Why not come along for an evening of high entertainment and challenge those little grey cells!

This is the BEST LITERARY QUIZ EVER!

Wrexham Library
LL11 1AU

Limited numbers - pre-book your place at Wrexham Library [entry is £1.00 per person]
FAMILY WALKING DAY

In conjunction with Wrexham Walking Festival: a fun family walk led by Bill Stephens, following an easy footpath route with some shelter along the way to accommodate children’s storytelling by Jacqui Blore and Jude Lennon.

Meeting point: the car park by the lake in Moss Valley (grid reference SJ 521314), LL11 6HZ, at 10.45am for 11.00am start - finish by 1pm.

Please confirm your place via our website.

Moss Valley Country Park
Poolmouth Road, Moss, Wrexham, LL11 6HT

FREE
INVISIBLE WORLDS
The Family Show

Take a journey from everyday life, down into the realm of microscopical wonders with Marty Jopson, the BBC One Show’s resident scientist and author of The Science of Everyday Life and The Science of Being Human. The adventure begins with things you can almost see but soon you will find yourself in a world totally invisible to the unaided eye. Marty will take you from the very beginnings of microscopy, through hugely magnified insects, bacteria and plants to the most up-to-date fluorescent techniques demonstrated live on the stage. A show not just full of stunning images, but interactive demonstrations and samples harvested from the audience. You have been warned!

North Wales Science
(Formerly Techniquest Glyndŵr)

£8.00; £4.00 for under 16s

(Marty will be performing this same show in a closed session for Wrexham schools at 1.00pm on the same day).
Carnival “Fringe”

Following last year’s popular innovation of a “fringe”, the Carnival of Words is hosting a sequence of lunchtime special events – take a break and enjoy our enhanced programme of quality authors.

All these events are at Wrexham Library commencing at 1.00pm. Tickets are priced at £3.00 for each session.

FRIDAY 24 APRIL
Do Not Feed the Bear - Rachel Elliott

Do Not Feed The Bear by Women’s Prize longlisted author Rachel Elliott is a life-affirming novel of love, loss and letting go. Cartoonist and free runner, Sydney, has never come to terms with the event that ripped her family apart when she was ten years old. And so, on a birthday that she doesn’t want to celebrate, she returns alone to St Ives to face up to her guilt and grief. It’s a trip that turns out to be life-changing - and not only for herself.

MONDAY 27 APRIL
What A Way To Go - Julia Forster

A conversation with award-winning author Julia Forster about the politics of pop and puberty in the late 1980s. 12-year-old Harper Richardson’s parents are divorced. Her mum got custody of her, the Mini, and five hundred tins of baked beans. What a Way to Go is a warm, wise and witty tale of one girl tackling the business of growing up while those around her try not to fall apart.
TUESDAY 28 APRIL
Christie Barlow & Bella Osborne

Christie is the international bestselling author of A Year in the Life of a Playground Mother and has since published 8 further novels. Her writing career came as somewhat of a surprise when she decided to write a book to teach her children a valuable life lesson and show them that they are capable of achieving their dreams. Her latest book 'Clover Cottage', the third in the Love Heart Lane Series, will be published in March 2020.

Bella has been jotting down stories as far back as she can remember. Since 2013, she’s written five romantic comedies and been shortlisted twice for the RNA Contemporary Romantic Novel of the Year Award. Her sixth novel ‘A Walk in Wildflower Park’ will be published in the summer 2020. Bella’s stories are about friendship, love and coping with what life throws at you.

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL

Black Tudors: Three Untold Stories - Miranda Kaufmann

Writer and academic Dr Miranda Kaufmann tells the intriguing tales of three Africans living in Tudor England. Their stories illuminate key issues. How did they come to England? What were their lives like? How were they treated by the church and the law? And most importantly, were they free?

FRIDAY 1 MAY

God’s Children - Paula Brackston

New York Times bestselling author Paula Brackston talks about her latest novel (written under her pen name Mabli Roberts), telling the story of British nurse Kate Marsden who, in 1891, travelled thousands of miles across Russia to establish a hospital for outcast lepers. She endured months of hardship and dangers but, on her return, was dogged by scandal, exposed as a lesbian, and brought to the point of ruin.
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P N Burrows Author
SilverWood
Wingetts
JDG
Gittins McDonald Solicitors

And our book friendlyCoffee Shops
TICKET INFORMATION

A full list of scheduled events can be found on the WREXHAM CARNIVAL OF WORDS website

www.wrexhamcarnivalofwords.com

FOLLOW US ON @WrexCarnival #WrexCarnival

Tickets are available online from www.wrexham.gov.uk/pay
Select the ‘Pay Online’ option followed by ‘All Shops’ and select ‘Libraries’

TICKET OFFICE:
Wrexham Library
01978 292090

Tickets for events are individually priced; or a Festival Ticket at £30 is available online and from Wrexham Library. It would help us to manage events if you would complete the event selection form on the website.

**Please note, if you purchase a Festival Ticket you will still need to BUY a ticket for the Murder Mystery event.

E-mail: events@wrexhamcarnivalofwords.com
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<td>Jim Kelly - How to write a crime novel series</td>
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<td>4.30pm</td>
<td>World Book Night (includes Children's Parade in Wrexham and book giveaway at Library)</td>
<td>Wrexham Town &amp; Library</td>
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<td>Friday 24 April</td>
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<td>Matt Hilton - Putting the “thrill” into thriller</td>
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<td>Saturday 25 April</td>
<td>11.00am - 5.30pm</td>
<td>History Day</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Wrexham</td>
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<td>Luke Gallagher – Tales of a Troubadour</td>
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<td>Sunday 26 April</td>
<td>10.45am</td>
<td>Family Walking Day with Wrexham Walking Festival featuring Jacqui Blore and Jude Lennon</td>
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<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Conversations with R.S. Thomas – David Subacchi &amp; Peter Read</td>
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<td>Monday 27 April</td>
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<td>5.00pm-6.45pm</td>
<td>Julia Forster – Carving Out A Writing Career</td>
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<td>Murder Mystery Evening – with Kate Ellis</td>
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<td>Thursday 30 April</td>
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<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Marty Jopson – Invisible Worlds: The Family Show</td>
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<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Aled Lewis Evans – Wrecsam Drwy’r Tymhorau</td>
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<td>Friday 01 May</td>
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<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Historical Fiction Night -Elizabeth Chadwick &amp; the Great Celtic Coracle Debate</td>
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<td>Saturday 02 May</td>
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<td>Amanda Prowse and Josh Prowse The Boy Between</td>
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The information in this programme was correct at the time of publication and the Wrexham Carnival of Words cannot be held responsible for any later amendments. Please check our website for the latest event information.