

# Literature Northants Newsletter

## July – September 2009

### Events

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**2nd August:** Bardic Picnic - Festival of the Spoken Word. The Bardic Chair Northampton is a non-profit community resource which aims to promote and encourage the spoken word arts in the Northampton community. The Bardic Chair have been running an open-mic spoken word evening once a month at the Labour Club Northampton where people of all ages and backgrounds are invited to share their work in a safe non-judgmental setting. As an extension and continuation of this work they are hosting a one day celebration of the spoken word in all its forms in the grounds of Delepre Abbey on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> August from midday till dusk. The event is free and open to the public and as well as show-casing Northampton's spoken word talent there will be a number of local, premiere music acts performing throughout the day, local community group information stalls, local crafts and goods for sale and the Labour Club will be running a licensed bar and selling reasonably priced food. For further information contact Justin on 07814655380 / [bardic\\_chair\\_northampton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bardic_chair_northampton@hotmail.co.uk) / [www.myspace.com/bardic\\_chair\\_northampton](http://www.myspace.com/bardic_chair_northampton). See below for Bardic opportunities.

**11<sup>th</sup> September:** Gold Nuggets. An evening of poetry, short stories and songs about life issues at the Jesus Centre, at the top of Abington Street, near BBC Radio Northampton. Time: 7.30 - 9.30pm on September 11th and November 13th 2009. Admittance is free. Drinks and snacks available in the cafe during the break. Bring your friends, and feel free to contribute, or just come and see what we're doing. For enquiries contact Ase on 01327 344576 after 2pm or e-mail [goldnuggets@myway.com](mailto:goldnuggets@myway.com).

For further event details see <http://litnorthants.wordpress.com/events/>.

### News

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#### Writers' Database from Writing East Midlands

Are you a writer based in the East Midlands? E-mail [antonia@writingeastmidlands.co.uk](mailto:antonia@writingeastmidlands.co.uk) to add your details to the upcoming writers' database. <http://www.writingeastmidlands.co.uk/>.

#### Shark Tales

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July, Kettering Library and Kettering's Manor House Museum worked together to deliver an event called 'Shark Tales'. The event was aimed at children aged 0-8 with their parents and carers and was hosted by Gilly Tompkins, a storyteller from 'Kidstory'. Gilly started the event in the library, with shark stories, shark games and some healthy refreshments. The second part of the event, involved everyone walking next door to the museum, where they learnt fascinating facts about sharks, listened to shark jokes and also took part in a shark colouring competition. The whole event was very successful and children received stickers and certificates for joining in.

Thanks to Gilly Tompkins who delivered a wonderful event and also to the staff at the library and museum. If you would like to learn more about sharks, why not visit Kettering Museum's Shark exhibition 'Shark! Myths and Reality'. The exhibition takes place at Kettering's Manor House Museum until 5th September and entry is free. For more on library events see <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/leisure/libraries/pages/default.aspx> or visit your local library.

#### Women of Steel - A Living History of Corby

Paula Boulton's book 'Women of Steel' is the most comprehensive social history of modern Corby ever produced and documents the important moments in the life of the new town that was established in the 1930s and almost destroyed in the 1980s when the steel works closed down. 'Women of Steel' is being sold at The Paper Shop in New Post Office Square, Corby, WH Smith in Corby and Kettering, Waterstone's in Kettering, the libraries in Corby and Kettering, Rockingham tea shop, Quinn's in Market Harborough and the Oundle bookshop. There is also a website for those who want to find out more and copies of the book, DVD and audio CD can be bought online by logging on to [www.womenofsteel.co.uk](http://www.womenofsteel.co.uk). For more on this story see <http://litnorthants.wordpress.com/news>.

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### Museum Writers Unmasked

The Museum Writers' group have published the first anthology of their poetry and prose, Unmasked. This is a selection from the readings they gave at the 2009 Althorp Literary Festival in June. The anthology is on sale at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery in Guildhall Road, Northampton, price £5.

### Opportunities

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#### The H.E. Bates Short Story Competition 2009

Be inspired by H.E. Bates, the Northamptonshire-born master of short stories, and write us a short story on the subject of your choice. The competition is open internationally to all writers and entry forms are available from <http://litnorthants.wordpress.com/opportunities/>.

#### Call for Scriptwriters

Interested in writing for television, film and radio? Join a group of scriptwriters who meet fortnightly to discuss what's new, what competitions and opportunities are available, and to read and assess each other's work. New members are always welcome. For more info, email [matthew.ward47@ntlworld.com](mailto:matthew.ward47@ntlworld.com).

#### Writing Industries Conference 2010

The next Writing Industries Conference is scheduled for March 2010, and will be organised by the Literature Network with Writing East Midlands. It will once again feature leading experts in panel discussions, agent one-to-one sessions and the chance to network with other writers. Please let the Literature Network know what you would like to see as part of WIC 2010 by completing the form here [http://literaturenetwork.org/?page\\_id=1369](http://literaturenetwork.org/?page_id=1369).

#### Fantastic Opportunities for Writers & Readers at the Lyric Lounge

Those fancying a trip over to Leicester can take advantage of a one to one about their writing or reading with Bookdoctor Alison Dunne, Festival Patron Jean 'Binta' Breeze or Artistic Director Lydia Towsey. Sessions will be available during the mornings of Monday 27th to Friday 31st July. To book a session contact 2Funky Arts: [info@2funkyarts.co.uk](mailto:info@2funkyarts.co.uk) / 0116 222 0639. For further writer development opportunities at the Lyric Lounge, see <http://literaturenetwork.org/?p=1401>. <http://lyriclounge.co.uk>.

#### Bardic Picnic Opportunities

As part of the Bardic Picnic celebrations, there will be a contest to find a suitable performer to represent Northampton as its town bard for a year and day. Entrants will be expected to perform up to three original pieces of their work throughout the day in competitive heats. The pieces can take the form of prose, poetry or song as long as the emphasis is on the spoken word. One of the pieces will be on the theme of 'Northampton is my Home'. Competitors must be 18 or over and live within a day's walk of Northampton town centre. The winner will receive a subject-related prize and the title of 'Bard of Northampton', which they will hold for a year and a day till the following year's competition where they will pass the title on. During the year, the duly elected Bard will be asked to write and perform for a number of occasions, as the voice of the town.

The Bardic Chair are also looking for a variety of performers to perform throughout the day in between heats – specifically storytellers, performance poets, acoustic music acts and jugglers etc. There will also be opportunities throughout the day for people to have a go at reading or performing their own material in open-mic spots, with small prizes for the best performers. There is a particular interest in finding performers from Northampton's rich and varied ethnic communities in the hope that the day will be a multi-cultural event.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of these capacities or would like to offer your services in any way or are interested in a fly pitch or would simply like to find out more, contact Justin on 07814655380 / [bardic\\_chair\\_northampton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bardic_chair_northampton@hotmail.co.uk) / [www.myspace.com/bardic\\_chair\\_northampton](http://www.myspace.com/bardic_chair_northampton).