

2008 News Archive

Sparking Creativity Workshop Saturday 16th August

"Hae dirled, stotit, glowerin wi jag smitten-een, gowpin wi mooth ajee....."

Storyteller and poet James Spence leads an interactive workshop for all creative writers, poets and storytellers who want to feel the thrill and power of their imagination.

Taking place in Port Seton Community Centre, East Lothian on 16th August, each participant will have an opportunity to fire their creativity through a variety of innovative and fun exercises. Collected over many years, they are designed specifically to put those taking part in touch with their passion for stories, and help to re-discover the child within.

James says of the experience you can expect: "Enter the thick forest, but instead of taking the well-worn path, venture onto one that's not at all familiar; perhaps it is darker, the path less clear. You might pick up a scratch or two, but it is here you will have new adventures."

James Spence is perhaps best known for his Scots adaptation of the graphic novel of Jekyll and Hyde. He has worked as a freelance storyteller for the past six years and was a poet for many years prior to this, with poetry collections, *The Fatal Touch*, *The Great Escape* and *Oot Thonder*, to his name. A night class "Storytelling in Scots" at Tynecastle High School Edinburgh, will be led by him in September, and he is currently working on a short story collection inspired by the oral tradition. James was brought up in Jedburgh, but now lives in the shadow of Arthur's Seat, having moved to Edinburgh in 1982.

If you would like to take part in the workshop, please contact Lyn Livingstone (no later than 11th August): lyn.livingstone@virgin.net or phone 01875 616 574. The cost of the workshop is £4.50 per person.

Posted 5.8.08

Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme Storytelling Project

Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme is looking for a storyteller to lead a project on the Isle of Bute for 12 months from September 2008. The successful candidate will have a collection of existing stories and tales, encourage new story writing and set up an annual competition, working with a wide range of groups and/or individuals, and provide storytelling training. This is a Heritage Lottery Funded project which will be taking place across Bute from September 2008 to August 2012. The deadline for applications is Friday 22nd August.

Posted 5.8.08

Words in the World at The Big Tent Festival, Falkland, Fife 26-27 July

The Words in the World zone at the Big Tent Festival is a unique space in which to create, share, discuss or simply listen to creative words, poetry, story and song.

Some of Scotland's leading ecological writers, thinkers, story-tellers and poets will be hosted at the tent, aiming to stimulate a forum for dialogue and a space for connection, as well as offering a range of exciting workshops for anyone interested in responding creatively to the environment we share, or in celebrating the magic possibilities of "words in the world".

Poetry and story, like music, offer us the opportunity to take our words, meanings, experiences, thoughts, fears and desires to a realm in which deep connection and unique self-knowledge become possible. They allow us to travel beyond rhetoric, to a place where we can glimpse, and

celebrate, the essence and inter-connectedness of all life on earth. By opening out the inner life, poetry and story offer us possibilities for healing and change, not just of ourselves but of the world we live in. www.lapidus.org.uk/news/index.php

Posted 21.7.08

Shetland Storytelling Festival 4-10 August 2008

Those who have spent happy times in the past at the Shetland Storytelling Festival will be delighted to hear that the Festival returns in 2008 after a break of several years. Like its previous incarnations, this new festival is a must for those who love a good yarn or a tall tale - whether you aspire to become a storyteller, wish to improve your storytelling skills or just want to sit back, listen and immerse yourself in the Shetland culture. Running in parallel with Shetland Arts' fiddle school and festival fiddle frenzy, the full Shetland Experience is promised in many different ways.

Local storyteller Lawrence Tulloch comes from a family steeped in folklore and stories and hails from the island of Yell. He'll be joined by another local well kent face, Davy Cooper, who as well as storytelling, is a writer and illustrator. Cromarty-based storyteller Bob Pegg will be joining them his entertaining mix of stories and music.

There are many options and combinations of participation to this festival - workshops, concerts, storytelling trips, and of course the festival club:

- Practical sessions for storytellers & prospective storytellers
- Seminar/talk
- Cultural trips & Concerts (in conjunction with Fiddle Frenzy)
- The Club - the social side of the combined festivals with music and stories each night till late

For further details contact Shetland Arts on 01595 743843 or email

richard.wemyss@shetlandarts.org

The Shetland Storytelling Festival is supported by the Scottish Arts Council and Shetland Arts.

Posted 17.6.08

CONNECTING WITH STORIES: Training and Development Programme 2008-9

The new 2008-9 Scottish Storytelling Centre's training programme kicks off on Friday 4th April 2008.

There are a number of exciting additions to this year's programme including an important new partnership with Newbattle Abbey College which has enabled us to mount residential courses validated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority for the first time. Four different themes of study leading to a Certificate of Attendance are also available: Traditions and Skills, Whole Person Learning, Community Learning and Development and Network Development Days.

Whether you're interested in the traditions of storytelling, the practical skills or just want to enjoy finding out about this most inclusive of ancient artforms, there's something for you in this year's programme.

Stanley Robertson, the great Traveller storyteller, leads a masterclass *Muckle Sangs* on Saturday 5th April, and the *Glendale Gathering* hosted by George MacPherson on the Isle of Skye, returns on 23-24th May. *Stories for Health and Wellbeing: Working with Young People* on 4th October, looks at sensitive issues that storytelling can address in a safe way, and *Faith Stories* on 14th

March 2009, will focus on how values can be articulated through storytelling. The content of some of the greatest stories will be studied in *The Inheritance of Arthur* on 28th February and *Celtic Saints* on February 6th 2009 will embrace the gamut of saintly superstars, from Bride to Columba, and celebrate their local connections.

For network members there are exclusive opportunities to attend workshops geared towards sharing the latest developments and professional good practice. We welcome the popular English storyteller Taffy Thomas for *Zest for Life: Working with Children* on 7th June, and he's joined by Steve Killick, psychologist and storyteller who last visited the Centre in 2006 for a sell-out workshop on storytelling and emotional literacy. Tying in with the major theme of the 2008 Scottish International Storytelling Festival there will be fascinating chance to learn about how our European neighbours approach storytelling in *Northern Lights: Sources and Resources* on 2nd November.

We are delighted to announce our new partnership with Newbattle Abbey College. This has come about as a direct result of demand for residential events which allow quality time to further develop themes and practice. The inclusion of a Professional Development Unit, leading to a SQL Level 8 qualification in Contemporary Storytelling consists of two weekends in a beautiful and historic Midlothian venue which itself has many stories to tell.

If you're new to storytelling, what better way to start than by attending *Beginning with Scottish Fairy Tales* on 4th April (repeated 25th October), or if you want to hone the skills you already have, *Intermediate Skills: Crafting the Story* on 6th June and *Intermediate Skills: Voicing the Story* on 13th June, are both key workshops to help you increase your proficiency in storytelling. Both of these courses are also repeated on 1st November.

Posted 17.1.2008