

News Lines



Autumn
Bulletin
2008

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The 5th Tales & Trails Trophy

Tuesday 23rd September sees Telling Space Storytelling Club's 5th annual story competition, The Tales & Trails Trophy. This year the competition is held in association with The Walled Garden Project in a magical setting, a garden next to Norton Mere in Tong Norton near Shifnal.

If you fancy trying to tell a tale for the much coveted prize, all you need to do is turn up at 7.30pm with a 5-minute story on the theme of

walls or gardens and wait your turn. But why not make more of an occasion of it by bringing some food to share and starting the evening earlier at 7.00pm.



There is a map of how to find the location on Mythstories website events page. So come along and give storytelling a try whether you're telling or just want to listen.



A Pilgrimage to King Arthur's Burial Site

Not many people know that King Arthur, yes THE King Arthur, is buried right here in Shropshire.

In June the Powysland Club managed to arrange a special trip to the Iron Age site which is on private land near Baschurch and we were quick to book our place.

The site consists of two mounds connected by a causeway; one a Hillfort, the other made into a harbour in the marsh. Magical!



Work Experience at Mythstories

"I'll be honest- when I chose to do my work experience at *Mythstories museum of myth and fable*, I had no idea of what to expect. Although I've often been past the museum, its actual work was little more than an enigma for me. Arriving on the first day, I was confronted with the



annual testing of all things electrical in the museum, before meeting my work experience partner Hollie and being told to co-tell a story with only fifteen minutes preparation. The whole fortnight turned out to be a similar whirlwind of diverse activities spanning from painting and sculpting to the thrills

of accountancy and funding forms! Among other things, we had to work under pressure to devise and create a museum exhibit to a deadline, sit through- ahem...attend! a two-and-a-half hour meeting about the funding of several different projects *and* see a new storytelling project at the conception stage. Somehow, Hollie and I also had time to learn how to use the cataloguing system at the museum, do a Health & Safety Check, and *even* slip in the odd cup of coffee! I had an absolutely fantastic time at *Mythstories* and everyone there was brilliant. I only wish it had been twice as long!" - **Daragh, 2008**



(That's *Mythstories'* volunteer Hazel showing Daragh and Hollie how to use the cataloguing system. Hazel deserves special mention in this issue as she's just catalogued her 1000th book in the SFS Library.)

The Launch of STWYtellers (no that's not a typo)

STWYtellers stands for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Young Tellers.

There's a lot of talented teenage tellers in the area, some of whom have taken part in the Young Storyteller of the Year competition. And now there's an organisation they can join. It's chaired by Joe - pictured - and has its own web-based forum. Mythstories, and some of our friends, are helping the group set up. Over the next couple of years we'll be supporting the group as it raises funds for workshops in schools, runs its own Young Storyteller competition and other events across the County. So if you know anyone aged 15 - 25 with a liking for language, get them to get in touch via Mythstories and get involved.



Happy Birthday to www.mythstories.com

Some of you may have noticed that throughout July you could go on line and sing 'Happy Birthday' to Mythstories website, which was 10 years old in that month.

Back in 1998 Dez began working with Iain Benady, Director of the Internet Service Provider Icom Distribution Ltd. to create an educational resource of traditional Shropshire stories. In good computing tradition, the work was mainly carried out in the early hours of the morning. The excellence of the site was soon recognised when it became one of the first 32 sites on the Government's National Grid for Learning, alongside sites developed by the BBC and national museums.



Over the years the site has grown considerably: a section of Shropshire myths aimed at pre-readers was funded by Heritage Lottery, an MLA grant gave it graphic-led navigation and even the Department of Trade and Industry funded a section of French translations of the Shropshire myths. The website is now home to several hundred pages of stories, project ideas and related activities.

The site has been used by over 4 million people in the past five years, and is being actively used in over 62 countries world wide. The main users are English and French speaking countries, but the list includes many more exotic parts of the world - where is Tuvalu?

The site has just undergone a revamp with a new front end to highlight Mythstories day to day work. Why not take a look? It's been tested, but not exhaustively, so if you come across any bugs, please tell us.

StoryCraft set sail over the Summer Holidays

This year we inaugurated a series of family craft and story workshops for the summer holidays. Aptly names 'Storycraft', the group met every Tuesday morning in the museum.

The activities included shadow puppets, a photostory, we even set up a recording studio. But the big favourite, thanks to the expertise of cartoonist Graham Higgins, was 'Toonery'. Graham is pictured with a few of his fans.



The next Storycraft outing is during the October half-term. If you have any ideas, or even talents you would like to share, come on board!

Dates for your Diary... Dates for your Diary... Dates for your Diary...

Daniel Morden brings The Devil's Violin to Shropshire.

Friday 26th September, Chetton Village Hall 7.30pm - £5.00

Saturday 27th September, SpArC Bishop's Castle 7.30pm - £6.00/£4.00

Annamation bring 'Tongue and Groove' to Shifnal Village Hall on Friday 3rd October 7.30pm Tickets £6/£4. plus a workshop on Saturday 4th 2-4pm Tickets £3 call Creative Company - 01952 462787 If you can't make Friday evening, they're at Nesscliffe Village Hall on Saturday at 7.30pm

Telling Space at Mythstories museum (unless stated) 7.00pm- 9.30pm Tuesdays 23rd September (Tales & Trails Trophy see article for venue), 28th October, 25th November, 23rd December

StoryCraft for half-terms and holidays at Mythstories museum 11.00am to 12.30pm Tuesday 28th October For children from 6 to 13years and their parents.

Rhymes and Tells at The Six Bells, Bishops Castle every 4th Sunday except Bank Holiday weekends 8.00pm info 01588 680685

Tales at the Edge at the Cinnamon Café, Bridgnorth every 2nd Tuesday 8.00pm info 01694 771379

The Swan Club at the Newhampton Inn, Wolverhampton every 1st Monday 8.00pm info chandstory@tiscali.co.uk



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