

Literary festival a key date on local calendar

# The word is out

**IT'S just four years old...but already the Words literary festival has become an essential event in the local calendar.**

Now Words '06 is set to take the borough by storm and its organisers are confident this year's event will include something for everyone who loves reading, writing or performing.

Highlights include:

- Kate Long, acclaimed author of *The Bad Mother's Handbook* and *Swallowing Grandma*, talking about her new novel.
- Tony Green, playwright and writer in residence from the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse, running a workshop for aspiring playwrights;
- the triumphant return of Manchester vampire queen Rosie Lugosi to the Tudor;
- an open-mic poetry evening for local poets to share their talents, and Bolton University showcasing its own graduate poets.

There will also be *Donkey Stone* (Steve Morris and Alan St John)... the *Rap Canterbury Tales*... the poet Adam Strickson...

and a host of other events.

The festival is organised by a committee of people drawn from across the borough's rich mix of literary groups.

Standish author Gillian Forrester is this year's Festival chair. She explains: "In the summer of 2005, I was stopped in the street and asked whether, for the next festival, we could bring Kate Long to Wigan.

"It was a measure of how far we have come in establishing the annual Words event as a Leigh and Wigan success that we could even think of this, let alone achieve it.

"The festival seems to have gone from strength to strength. The mixture of professional writers and community events seems to have really captured the imagination.

"I don't think people realise just what a lot of quality writing there is in our borough. A few years ago some would have said you could never put on something like this locally, but not now. Words is not just a traditional literary event.

"We've got a crossword workshop, a Scrabble tournament, in fact something for people who love the power of words in every sense."



Hip hop artist Baba Brinkman, who is set to wow the crowds with his rap interpretation of Chaucer's classic *The Canterbury Tales*, and his workshop on how to be a rapper.



Novelist Kate Long... one of the key speakers during Words 2006

# Words '06

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

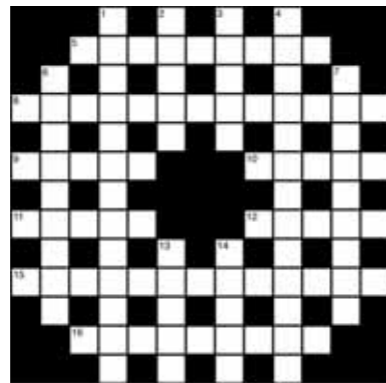
will talk about her books, family life and growing up in Wigan. £3 on the door.

**Thursday 20 April, 7:30pm**  
**POETRY AND PROSE AT SANTOS... WITH DOROTHY NELSON AND VINCE SMITH**

Santos Coffee Bar, Mesnes Street, Wigan. Dorothy Nelson will read from her new novel, *Passing the Parcel*. Local writer Vince Smith will read his poems. FREE.

**Friday 21 April, 1:00pm - 4:00pm**  
**LESLEY GARVEY: WRITING WORKSHOP**  
Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. Informal chats, group work and short exercises. Advance Reservations Only on 01942 404404. FREE.

**Friday 21 April, 7:30pm**  
**LEIGH AND ATHERTON WRITERS, LITERARY SHOWCASE**  
Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. Poems and short stories read by the authors themselves. £1 on the door.



Are crosswords a puzzle? Try our workshop

**Monday 17 April, 2:00pm till late**  
**WIGAN DAY OF FOLK'N'VERSE**

Seven Stars, Wallgate, Wigan. Come and sing a song, play a tune, or recite a poem or monologue. FREE.

**Tuesday 18 April, 7:30pm**  
**THE PEOPLE'S POETRY: OPEN MIC, WITH JULIAN JORDON** The Orwell, The Pier, Wallgate, Wigan. Read your own poetry alongside experienced poets. FREE.

**Wednesday 19 April, 10:00am - 4:00pm**  
**DAVID WEBB "WRITING FOR CHILDREN" - A WORKSHOP FOR ADULT WRITERS**  
Wigan Cricket Club, off Parson's Walk, Wigan. The workshop will focus on story writing. Advance Reservations Only 01942 404404. FREE.

**Wednesday 19 April, 7:30pm**  
**THE MYSTERY MEN presents "ART IN THE BLOOD": AN EVENING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES & ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE**  
Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. A lively presentation dealing with Doyle's love/hate relationship with Sherlock Holmes. £3 on the door.

**Thursday 20 April, 10:00am - 4:00pm**  
**ANNE CALDWELL: "WRITING POETRY TO EXPLORE OUR LIVES"**  
Wigan Cricket Club, off Parson's Walk, Wigan. Advance Reservations Only 01942 404404. FREE.

**Thursday 20 April, 2:00pm**  
**KATE LONG: "SWALLOWING GRANDMA" AND OTHER STORIES**  
Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. Kate

**Saturday 22 April 10:00am - 12:00pm**  
**WRITERS' MARKET**

Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. FREE.

**Saturday 22 April, 2:00 - 4:00pm**  
**"HEAR THE WORD..."** Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. Readings from novels, short stories, poetry and local history. FREE.

**Saturday 22 April, 7:30pm**  
**ADAM STRICKSON, "INDIAN RUG SURPRISED BY SNOW" + AVTAR LOTA + FOOD**  
Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. A gentle plea for a more shared humanity. Advance Reservations Only, TIC on 01942 825677. £4.

**Saturday 22 April, 7:30pm**  
**WILLPOWER YOUTH THEATRE: "TEENAGE NEW WRITING"**  
Wigan Baptist Church Hall, Scarisbrick St., Wigan. An evening of short plays by members of the youth theatre. 01942 498339 £3 (£2conc) on the door.

**Saturday 22 April, 7:30pm**  
**RED HOT RECORDS: "SONGS FROM THE SHOWS"**  
Beer Engine, Poolstock, Wigan. A showcase featuring 10 of Red Hot Records' artistes, age range 11 to 50. Abba to Ziegfeld, originals and tributes. 01942 244641 £3.50.

**Sunday 23 April, 2:00pm**  
**PHIL RICKMAN "MYSTERY UPON MYSTERY"** Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. Phil will talk about his books and answer questions. £3 on the door.

**Sunday 23 April, 4:00pm**  
**AFTERNOON TEA WITH JOHN HILTON**  
Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. John Hilton on how his experience inspired war correspondent Kate Adie to write *Nobody's Child* - about children who were abandoned as children and adopted. 01942 404404. £3 on the door.

**Sunday 23 April, 9:00pm till late**  
**WIGAN FOLK CLUB + THE BOWLING GREEN SINGAROUND: "ST GEORGE AND THE DRAGON"**  
The Bowling Green, Wigan Lane, Swinley, Wigan. "Mumming" play followed by an opportunity for anyone to sing a song, play a tune, or recite a poem. FREE.

**Monday 24 April, 10:00am - 1:00pm**  
**DEALING WITH LONELINESS AND ISOLATION: A CREATIVE WORKSHOP WITH AGE CONCERN**  
Pennyhurst Mill, Haigh Street, Wigan. What helps you to deal with or avoid loneliness and isolation? 01942 615884. FREE.

**Monday 24 April, 6:00pm**  
**"THE RAP CANTEBRURY TALES" - HIP-HOP WRITING WORKSHOP**  
St John Rigby College Theatre, Gathurst Road, Orrell, Wigan. Workshop with Baba Brinkman (who devised *The Rap Canterbury Tales*) to share the basic techniques rap artists use to express themselves and tell stories. Advance reservations only. 01942 486917. FREE.

**Monday 24 April, 8:00pm**  
**"THE RAP CANTEBRURY TALES"**  
St John Rigby College Theatre, Gathurst Road, Orrell, Wigan. Baba Brinkman's solo performance. *The Rap Canterbury Tales*, first appeared at the Edinburgh Festival in 2004. Baba creates a live storytelling event using tongue-twisting rhymes and hip-hop rhythms. To book in advance TIC 01942 825677. £5 (£3 conc.) on the door.

**Tuesday 25 April, 10:00am - 4:30pm**  
**TRIXIE ROBERTS: "CLUELESS ABOUT CROSSWORDS?": WORKSHOP**  
Wigan Cricket Club, off Parson's Walk, Wigan. Advance

reservations only. 01942 404404. FREE.

**Tuesday 25 April, 7:30pm**  
**DAVID LYTHGOE CHAIRS "CALL MY BLUFF"**  
Wigan Cricket Club, off Parson's Walk, Wigan. Teams of three are welcome, but singles and doubles may enter separately. FREE.

**Wednesday 26 April, 10:00am - 12:00pm**  
**PEMBERTON PENS : "EVERYONE HAS A STORY"**  
Marsh Green Community Centre, Kitt Green Road, Marsh Green, Wigan. Readings of poetry, prose and song by members of Pemberton Pens. FREE.

**Wednesday 26 April, 7:30pm**  
**SCRIPTSHOP PRESENTS "BEHIND CLOSED DOORS" - WORLD PREMIER!**  
Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. Do you really know what goes on in your local community centre? ADULTS ONLY. £3 (£2conc) on the door.

**Wednesday 26 April, 8:30pm**  
**ROSIE LUGOSI QUIZ NIGHT: "SHUT UP AND LISTEN"** Tudor Hotel, New Market Street, Wigan. Manchester's Vampire Queen is back and hosting a ghoulishly quiz with questions on a vampire's view of Wigan. FREE.

**Thursday 27 April, 10:00am - 4:00pm**  
**TONY GREEN, PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP**  
Wigan Cricket Club, off Parson's Walk, Wigan. A workshop on writing drama for the stage. Advance Reservations Only, 01942 404404 FREE.

**Thursday 27 April, 7:30pm - 11:00pm**  
**WIGAN PIER THEATRE COMPANY : "REPLAY CABARET"** Wigan Cricket Club, off Parson's Walk, Wigan. An evening of writing by new local playwrights. £3 on the door.

**Thursday 27 April, 7:30pm**  
**POETRY AND PROSE AT SANTOS...**  
Santos Coffee Bar, Mesnes Street, Wigan. Santos welcomes new writers making their debut performances. FREE.

**Thursday 27 April, 7:30pm**  
**"WORD PLAY" AN EVENING WITH POETS JAMES NASH & JOHN SIDDIQUE**  
Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. £3 on the door.

**Friday 28 April, 2:00pm**  
**ALAN GIBBONS: "WRITING AGAINST THE ODDS"**  
Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Civic Square, Leigh. Alan Gibbons comes to Words'06 to talk about his work. FREE.

**Friday 28 April, 8:00pm**  
**DONKEY STONE - STEVE MORRIS + ALAN ST JOHN**  
The Globe, High Street, Standish. Songs, stories, monologues and daft bits. £3 on the door.

**Saturday 29 April, 10:00am - 4:30pm**  
**SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT, CONDUCTED BY JEN HARRIS: OPEN TO ALL** The Orwell, Wigan Pier, Wallgate, Wigan. Advance reservations only, 01942 884644 before 22nd April, £10 Including buffet lunch.

**Saturday 29 April, 11:30am - 1:30pm**  
**"FRAGMENTS": WOW 4 WORDS'06!**  
Queens Hall, Market Street, Wigan. Arts workshops in story telling, calligraphy and poetry for black and minority ethnic communities and all local people. Advance reservations only, phone Shakirah Ullah on 01942 686243. FREE.