

Report on Ilminster Literary Festival: 1-9 June 2016

I have attended a briefing meeting about the Festival and a Management Committee meeting.

The event promises to be an exciting venture for the town and will give young and old alike an opportunity to talk and listen to both new and established authors, editors and illustrators. The Festival will concentrate on local authors and local speakers to reinforce the message that there is a wealth of literary talent in Somerset. The Festival will commence with a dinner at The Shrubbery Hotel on 1 June at which the guest speaker will be Anthony Gibson, accomplished broadcaster and journalist, and other planned events so far include a literary quiz, children's storytellers, a poetry competition, an evening with The Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe and many more. So far 18 people have been engaged to contribute to the event, the majority of whom are donating their services although it is anticipated that travel expenses will be claimed in some cases.

Background

For the first year only, the Festival is being held under the auspices, and with the support and sponsorship of, the Rotary Club of Ilminster. In future years it is intended to run the Festival on an annual or biennial basis, to enable the Festival to operate independently of the Rotary Club. There is a Management Committee for the Festival, initially comprising representatives from: the Rotary Club; Ilminster Entertainments Society; Ilminster Arts Centre; Ilminster Town Council; The Book Rest and Ilminster Book Shop.

With regard to funding grants and donations are being sought.

The Committee will arrange for marketing and publicity for the Festival as a whole and are committed to producing a balanced and co-ordinated programme of events and functions. The Committee are very much aware that the pricing of tickets will also be a major factor in determining the success of the event.

Julie Fowler

September 2015