

What's your story, Chorley?

Chorley's Annual Festival of Words

Saturday 26 March 2022
11am – 4pm

Over 30 authors, story tellers, poets,
actors and musicians taking part

Town centre venues – Book bench trail – Fun filled for all ages



Visit checkoutchorley.com for more details

Welcome to

What's your story, Chorley?



Chorley Council

2022

Join us for our annual festival of words as over 30 storytellers, authors, poets, actors and musicians perform at venues across Chorley town centre.

This event celebrating the wonderful world of words is now in its 8th year and just gets better each year, with nationally recognised contributors getting involved and more visitors in Chorley town centre enjoying the day.

The family fun event is suitable for all ages. It is organised by Chorley Council in partnership with Edge Hill University, Ebb & Flo Bookshop, Chorley Library, Chorley Theatre, The Creative Network and a team of talented volunteers who have dedicated their time and efforts to organise this all-inclusive community event and make it into the successful event it is today.

This year's event, on Saturday 26 March from 11am to 4pm, will see performances throughout the day, in 8 venues across the town centre. The format is similar to the popular Chorley Live weekend held every October. This time it's about words – listening, reading, writing and stories – and there really is something to suit everyone.

Performances will start on the hour from 11am with each session lasting around 45 minutes.

Take a look through the programme and plan which sessions you'd like to attend throughout the day. All venues are free entry.

The aims of the event are:

- To establish an annual event in Chorley that helps people to discover (or rediscover) and enjoy the power of reading, writing and listening
- To help grow the creative community in the area
- To encourage people to read and write and to help them discover how enjoyable using these skills can be - reading and writing are such powerful tools that can open up lots of new opportunities for people of all ages
- To attract people into the town centre creating a 'feelgood' factor and supporting local businesses

Our grateful thanks go to all the independent businesses - and Chorley Library - who volunteer to host this event and we hope that you will also support them throughout the year.

We'd love to know what you think of the event so tweet us using **#whatsyourstory**

We hope you enjoy the event!





Join our book bench trail

We have joined forces with the Faculty of Education (Primary Education) at Edge Hill University and local schools to create the trail around the town centre aimed at encouraging creativity and a love of books.

The brightly coloured benches are designed and decorated by pupils from 13 local schools and students from Edge Hill University, inspired by their favourite book – and there will be one bench, outside the Covered Market on Fazakerley Street, that people will be able to help decorate on the day. Edge Hill students will be dressed as book characters and will read stories on the book benches around town, throughout the day.

You can pick up the book bench trail quiz sheet from all these venues: Eden of Chorley florist, Chorley Library, Chorley Council offices on Union Street, Ebb & Flo Bookshop, Chorley Town Hall.

Our thanks go to the primary schools in the book bench project:

Acorns (Preston) - Asmall (Ormskirk) - Brinscall St. John's - Buckshaw Charnock Richard CE - Coppull Parish - Duke Street - Eccleston Primary - Gillibrand - St George's - St Gregory's - St James' - St Joseph's
Thanks also to Edge Hill University students for creating their book bench with Asmall Primary School in Ormskirk and for all their help and support with our Chorley schools to create their benches.

A thank you to The Faculty of Education (Primary Education) at Edge Hill University for co-ordinating the project and to all the schools and pupils for taking part and designing these amazing book benches.

Come and decorate a book bench at the Market

map ref

6

CHORLEY LIBRARY – Book Stacks

Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1EB
t: 0300 123 6703

map ref

1

All Day Chief Story Makers at Magical Story Jars

CHILDREN

Story Mixing & The Great Bunting Story from the Children of Chorley

Come along to the library between 11am and 4pm and try your hand at two fun and fantastic drop in activities suitable for children of all ages. Visit the Story Mixing Station and enjoy using story cards, objects, wonderful words and a big dollop of your awesomeriffic imagination to mix up your very own adventure story. Alternatively, channel your inner artist and play a part in 'The Great Bunting Story From the Children of Chorley' activity. See what's happened in the story so far and illustrate what happens next. The Chief Story Makers from Magical Story Jars will be on hand to support, enthuse and ensure a jolly good time is had by all.

Note: Please be aware that photos and video footage may be taken during this session. We ask that those of you who are camera shy & don't want to be in any footage please make a member of staff aware so we can ensure this happens. Thanks.

*ALL ACTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



CHORLEY LIBRARY – JUNIOR LIBRARY

Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1EB
t: 0300 123 6703

map ref **1**

11am Jen Carney

The Accidental Diary of B.U.G.

Come along to hear Puffin author-illustrator, Jen Carney, read extracts from her comedy series, the Accidental Diary of B.U.G. Learn about The Biscuit Laws and have a go inventing your own, then join in with a fun doodling game. Don't forget your pencil! This is an interactive session, ideal for 7-11s.

CHILDREN

12noon Gareth Walker

Literacy Kicks – engaging children in reading and writing through sports reporting

Gareth Walker discusses his career as a sports journalist for national newspapers for 20 years, and his recent launch of Literacy Kicks, a schools programme that engages students in reading and writing through sports reporting lessons.

ALL AGES

1pm Rogan Mills

If you go down to Chorley today, you're in for a big surprise!

Purveyor of tall stories and joyful exaggerations, Rogan will perform some of his favourite teddy bear stories, chants and rhymes. If you'd like to, bring along your favourite cuddly toy to join in with this very interactive celebration of storytelling.

YOUNG CHILDREN

2pm Phil Walker

The Adventures of the Snots

Award Winning Comedian Phil Walker returns to Chorley with his friends and illustrator Tim Stead to introduce you to their little Snotty family The Snots! The first book was recently voted into the top 100 friendship books of all time by book authority. The latest adventure The Snots & the Snot Rocket takes you on an adventure that is literally out of this world! With Phil's 20 years' experience entertaining families in Pantomime & Tim's excellent colourful illustrations this is sure to be a fun interactive session!

CHILDREN

3pm Susan Brownrigg

A Pirates Life for Me!

Ahoy there! Children's author Susan Brownrigg is inviting young scallywags and their Captain's (responsible adults) to join her pirate fun! Discover the inspiration behind her Madagascan treasure hunt adventure Kintana and the Captain's Curse. Suitable for ages 5-12. Susan will be in pirate costume so why not dress up too!

CHILDREN

CHORLEY LIBRARY – First Floor Community Library

Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1EB
t: 0300 123 6703

map ref **1**

11am Cath Cole

Write What You Know

One of the main pieces of advice to new writers is write what you know. In her presentation Cath will discuss the way in which she uses her life experiences to weave into the fabric of her novels. Her work is fiction underpinned by remembered events. How true her memories are is perhaps up for debate.

ADULTS

12noon Patricia Rothwell

A Lancashire Fusiliers First World War

Norman Hall was a soldier in the Lancashire Fusiliers Regiment throughout World War One. He left a diary (now in the Imperial War Museum) chronicling his experiences of manning the trenches and going "over the top" in the Battle of the Somme. This talk, which tells the story of that diary, and how it came to be published in November 2021, will include short extracts from the original diary, as well as some unpublished research material.

ADULTS

1pm Dedrah Moss

Inspired by a Book – Flower Arranging

Chorley Flower Show's Floral Art coordinator Dedrah Moss demonstrates flower arranging techniques. Dedrah is encouraging visitors to get involved and take part and inspire children to enter our Floral Art Junior Competition which this year is titled "Inspired by a Book".

ALL AGES

2pm Andy Bennison

Scripts from Scratch

Do you want to write a play, but don't know where to start? Develop your ideas, themes, plots and characters. Find out about structure, format and how to revise your writing. Get your scripts out there! An informal introduction to play writing with a local playwright.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

3pm John D Rutter

Reading from Award Winning Novel 'Approval'

John D Rutter's award-winning debut novel Approval follows the journey of a couple in Lancashire as they try to become approved to adopt a child. It raises important questions about the process from the would-be adopter's perspective. John will read short excerpts from the book and discuss the road to becoming a published writer – a must see for developing authors as John holds a Q&A session on adoption and publishing.

ADULTS

CHORLEY LIBRARY – MAIN LIBRARY CIRCLE

Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1EB
t: 0300 123 6703

map ref **1**

11am Lancashire Authors' Association

Meet the Lancashire Authors'

Come and be entertained by the Lancashire Authors as their members perform from all genres of literature.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

12noon Steve Holgate (Mayor of Chorley)

Bilbo and Smeagol (Gollum) have a game of riddles under the Goblin Mountain

Join Mayor of Chorley, Steve Holgate, as he talks about his favourite book 'The Hobbit'. Deep under the Goblin mountain Bilbo Baggins and the creature Gollum meet up and have a conversation which takes the form of a riddle game. If Bilbo wins Gollum will show Bilbo the way out of the mountain if however, he loses then Gollum will eat Bilbo whole. All the time the future of the Ring of Power is in the balance along with the future of 'Middle-Earth'.

ALL AGES

1pm Chorley Writers' Circle

An Assortment of Light and Dark Delights

An eclectic collection from novices to established writers of poetry and prose, both light and dark, all interwoven with humor, pathos and passion which will engage all.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

2pm Frank English and Grace Langley

How to become one of the very few published authors in the world at age 10

Retired teacher Frank English talks about his lifetime ambition of becoming a children's author and his passion to inspire young writers develop their creative writing skills. Frank has helped young writers to become authors as he encourages them to think deeper and create story lines, characters, scenarios and exciting endings to stories. Grace Langley has worked under Frank's tutelage to produce 'The Spirit Tree' together. Using deep imagination and storytelling ability, Grace has shown writing talent and capabilities far beyond her tender years!

ALL AGES

3pm Chris Allton

From Teacher to Author, with a Bit of Music In Between

After 20 years as a primary school teacher (and 30 years as a musician) Chris is now an author travelling to schools all over the country, delivering workshops, talking about writing, wellbeing and his books. See how he uses his experiences with friends in his books and his passion for wellbeing involving over 40 different journals he has produced.

YOUNG CHILDREN

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

*ALL ACTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CHORLEY THEATRE

10 Dole Ln, Chorley PR7 2RL
t: 01257 264362

map ref **2**

11am Lancashire Dialect Poetry

A Reet Marlock

Sid Calderbank and friends will recite Lancashire monologues from Bowtons Yard to Albert and The Lion and recite cracks from a Cobblers seat. There is opportunity for you to join in with your best Lancashire accent.

ADULTS

12noon Poppamost Productions

Stories from the Nest

Stories from the Nest is a collective showcase of writers from the Northwest, telling monologues, mini plays and poems about womanhood and home. This is a preview of a feature length showcase set to take place on Monday 28 March in Manchester. If you're looking for some bitesize and heartfelt stories, please come and visit, watch and mingle with the writers and producers of the show.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

1pm Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP

The Speaker's Story

Join The Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle as he shares his story of how he started off in politics, right through to present day as 'Mr Speaker'. Talented author Jen Carney will interview Lindsay and find out about his story from local councillor, to MP for Chorley right through to maintaining order in Parliament as the Speaker of the House of Commons.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

5pm Lilly Burke

Directing Macbeth

The director of Chorley Theatre's sold-out production Macbeth, talks about the challenges of bringing Shakespeare to the stage, offering insight into the famous play, and why it has appealed to so many people for centuries.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS












*ALL ACTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

What's your story, Chorley?

VENUES

Key to symbols

-  Chorley Council (One Stop Shop)
-  Town Hall
-  Pedestrian Area
-  Town Centre Shopping
-  Markets
-  Car Parking
-  Toilets
-  One way
-  Underpass



1 Chorley Library

2 Chorley Theatre

3 Ebb & Flo

4 St Laurence's Church

5 Union Street Offices

6 Book Bench Decorating
see page 4 for more info

 Book Bench Trail



CHORLEY THEATRE BAR

10 Dole Ln, Chorley PR7 2RL
t: 01257 264362

map ref **2**

11am Andrea Horrocks

Our Story – Addiction and Recovery

WatchUSgrow - our true life story of addiction and how we started our recovery journey and later established our WatchUSgrow recovery community hub.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

12noon Darran Nash

Delivering your Novel

Everybody has a novel in them, so goes the old adage. But how do you translate your unique story from initial thoughts into a finished product sitting on the bookshelves of strangers? In this session, first-time novelist Darran Nash will outline his journey from primary school teacher to a published author. Insights into his creative process will include plotting, characterisation, research, editing, typesetting and publication, as well as readings from his debut novel, Pushing Cotton.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

1pm Sharron Howard

Lanky Spoken Here

A collection of Lancashire dialect poems and reflections of youth and growing up in Lancashire.

ADULTS

2pm Paul Salvesson

Moorlands, Memories and Reflections: A Celebration of Lancashire's Moors

It's over a century since Allen Clarke published his classic 'Moorlands and Memories'. Paul published 'Moorlands, Memories and Reflections' in 2020 as a tribute to Clarke's masterpiece and looks at the history and culture of Lancashire's moors and highlights some of the writers that Clarke knew, through the Lancashire Authors' Association. The talk will have a strong emphasis on the Chorley and Horwich area, including the area's connections with the great American poet Walt Whitman.

ADULTS

3pm John E Harrison

Chorley's Co-operative Community, Mill and Shops

Co-operative idealists in nineteenth century Chorley, established their own community in Birkacre, running a print works and living on the Burgh Hall estate. Thirty years later a separate group set up their own mill in Steeley Lane and they were linked to other co-operators who established the Chorley Pilot Industrial Co-operative Society. They ran shops. All three businesses ultimately failed. Who were these co-operators? What did they achieve? They deserve to be better known.

ADULTS

*ALL ACTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

EBB & FLO

12 Gillibrand St, Chorley PR7 2EJ
t: 01257 262773

map ref **3**

11am Judith Gratton

My Life with Shetlands

Having spent over fifty years caring for ponies and thirty years devoted to the Shetland Pony breed, this is my story about my memories and my passion for horses and ponies. My hope is to inspire generations to enjoy everything equine!

ALL AGES

12noon Steve Roe

Why Not Write Poetry?

A fresh look at modern poetry in its various styles and forms with the aim of encouraging participants to try to write some poetry and link them into various local groups for further encouragement and inspiration.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

1pm Dean Fraser

The Lancashire Poems 10th Anniversary Tour

Lancashire Living Magazine said – "These observational poems are thought provokingly deep, sometimes historical, other times contemporary and often simply laugh out loud funny."

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

2pm Gemma Margerison

Writing, Wellbeing and a Holistically Healthy Life

Gemma will introduce her first book 'Connected: The 12 Way of Wellbeing for a Holistically Healthy Life' and how you can use it to make positive changes to your overall levels of wellness. Hear about the work Gemma does as a Wellbeing Writer, Resilience Coach, and guest speaker, and how her work inspired her to bring together the treasure trove of information, advice, and guidance that is Connected.

ADULTS

3pm Linda Sherlock

Tell Them About It! How to Get Your Writing Read

At last, you are a published writer. But how do you make it a best seller? Chorley author Linda Sherlock has featured on TV, radio, online, in the press and in magazines promoting her book 'Shampoo and Set 75 years as a Hairdresser' published by The Book Guild. In this session, she will share her experiences and pass on tips on how to raise the profile of your publication as well as reading extracts from her book.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

*ALL ACTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ST LAURENCE'S CHURCH

Union Street, Chorley PR7 1EB
t: 01257 231360

map ref



All Day **Students of Edge Hill University Stories**

Sharing Stories

Come and hear students reading stories for young children at any point during the day.

YOUNG CHILDREN



Union Street Offices

Civic Offices, Union St, Chorley PR7 1AL
t: 01257 515151

map ref



11am **Bard 2 The Bone**

Raising The Standards

Bard 2 The Bone are a duo who perform poetry and music. They will be sharing with you poems and songs about heroes and villains from history to the present day.

ADULTS

12noon **Steve Gilyead**

Storytelling Songs

Listen and sing along to songs that tell stories of wolves, forests, sailors, warriors and more.

ALL AGES

1pm **The Crows of Albion**

Crow Lore

A dark folk tale, written as poetry performed as song, of life and death and rebirth. A scarecrow stands in a field and dreams of animation and living beyond the end of his natural season. The crows chronicle the events that unfold in their sacred texts – 'Crow Lore'. Be careful what you wish for child...

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

2pm **Glyn Shipman**

Songs from My Kitchen – The World's Gone Mad!

To Hell in a handcart... the pretty way round. A musical journey through Privilege, Protest, Profit and Parasites, Morris and Magic and Mermaids' Tears.

TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

3pm **Sarah Bee**

The Story of the Bees – Pandemic Edition!

The story of how we turned a disused cheese stall into a multinational award-winning eatery and deli which survived COVID-19.

ADULTS



Writing Competition for Young People

Each year as part of the What's Your Story Chorley? event, volunteers from the WYSC? group organise a writing competition for young people.

This year all Chorley Schools were invited to take part. The volunteers contacted schools to encourage pupils to be involved and gave the theme of "Desert Island Books" on which entrants could base their submitted work.

Children were asked which 3 books they would take to a desert island and why? They had three options of letting us know which books they would take:

- Write a short piece (no more than 100 words) about each book
- Make a short video to tell us which books they have chosen and why?
- Make a small poster for each book and highlight what's great about it?

This work will be displayed in Chorley Library to show which books the children have chosen for their desert island – be sure to check it out!

A huge Thank you

A big thanks goes to all the contributors and organisations who have given their time up and plied you with stories, poems, readings, music and advice throughout the day.

A thank you to all the venues for hosting the event and to all the children involved in the brilliant book bench trail.



Continue your story?

If you've enjoyed today keep reading, writing and listening by:

- **Visiting your local bookshops:** Ebb & Flo
12 Gillibrand Street, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 2EJ
www.ebbandflobookshop.co.uk
- **Visiting your local libraries:** Chorley Library
Union Street, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 1EB
www.lancashire.gov.uk

- **Joining writing groups:**
Chorley and District Writers' Circle
www.chorleywriters.org.uk

The Creative Network's Writers' Group
info@thecreativenetwork.org.uk

Lancashire Authors' Association
www.lancashireauthorsassociation.co.uk



Book based events coming up

Chorley Theatre will host these fantastic book based events – make sure to put the dates in your diary:

Thursday 5 May: **The Two P's In A Podcast – Live!**

The award winning podcast brothers share funny stories from the front line of teaching from their debut book 'Put a Wet Paper Towel on it: The Weird and Wonderful World of Primary Schools' in this live and hilarious show.

Monday 13 June - Saturday 18 June: **Little Women**

CADOS Present Little Women. Based on the classic Louisa May Alcott novel.

Sunday 18 September: **New Dawn Fades**

Based on 'Joy Division: A Graphic Story' by Brian Gorman, this play takes the audience on the journey of one of the most influential bands of all time, Joy Division, as they inspired the punk revolution in Manchester in the 1970s.

For further information and to book tickets visit chorleytheatre.com



SUNDAY 8 MAY

Chorley Town Centre

Register for the Chorley 10K or 2K family run

Chorley's annual 10K and 2K family run is back better than ever for 2022. Organised by Chorley Council, in association with Fylde Coast Runners, this event offers something for everyone; whether you're a regular runner, fancy a challenge, a fun runner or want to cheer someone on.

Starting and finishing on Market Street in the town centre, the run will follow the same route as last year, with the 2k family run starting at 9.30am and the Chorley 10K at 10.30am.

How to enter

For more information on the race, details on how to register visit checkoutchorley.com/chorley10k

Check out more events in Chorley for 2022

Chorley 10K

Sunday 8 May

A Taste of Chorley

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June

Picnic in the Park

Sunday 5 June

Chorley Flower Show

Friday 29 to Sunday 31 July

Chorley Live

Friday 7 and Saturday 8 October

Christmas Lights Switch On

Saturday 20 November



Visit the website for more details on these events
and other ideas for a great day out in Chorley

checkoutchorley.com

Dates are subject to change, check website for full details.