

ILF 2021 Newsletter 3



The warmest of welcomes to ILF's new Patrons – Former Home Secretary, now author, Alan Johnson who'll be making his 2nd Festival appearance in November and top fashion designer Alice Temperley MBE, whose business is a vibrant new addition to the Ilminster community.



During the past 12 months I've done more than my fair share of reading, clocking up a grand total of more than 200 books, while the other Trustees of the Ilminster Literary Festival have certainly not been resting on their laurels. With the aid of Zoom meetings, and the constant cry of 'can you hear me, you're on mute' ringing in our ears, we've all been hard at work planning for a smaller-scale Festival towards the end of this year.

So get diaries out and **book the dates** for this wonderful community event!

We start with **the annual Literary Quiz** (not too highbrow!) on Sunday 31st Oct. and held in the afternoon. Bring your own (optional) picnic to Donyatt Village Hall, where there's plenty of parking and the chance of winning one of our great raffle prizes.

The main Festival itself will be held from Nov. 10th – 13th with a strong line up of interesting authors and other speakers, some of whom, by popular demand, are returning after previous ILF success.

Nearer the time **look out for the free brochure giving full details of the programme.**

Venues this year will be The Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster Arts Centre and Monks Yard.

If previous years are anything to go by tickets, once available, will sell like hot cakes. To be sure of keeping up to date, and to receive free newsletters, **subscribe to our mailing list,**

Just e mail the Festival office at ilminsterlitfest@gmail.com

Linda Piggott-Vijeh, ILF Trustee

[Ilminster Literary Festival November 10 to November 13](#)

Final of the ILF Schools Poetry Competition

Each year Ilminster Literary Festival works with local schools to hold a poetry competition for pupils. Organised and hosted – with stunning efficiency! - by Claire Oaten, Headteacher of Greenfyld School, this allows the children to recite a poem, learned by heart and chosen from a small available selection and to be judged on the quality of their presentation.

The 2021 final took place on June 8th and 14th by Zoom, involving pupils from Greenfyld First School, Combe St Nicholas Primary School, Hambridge Primary School, Neroche Primary School, St Bartholomews First School and Wadham Secondary School. From 109 entries, 25 finalists had been chosen to perform. A judging panel of 3 ILF committee members faced tough decisions in agreeing on the winners and runners up, since everyone performed to a high standard. Judges also gave feedback before results were announced. While all finalists were given certificates, winners and runners up also each received a book complete with an Ilminster Literary Festival book plate, to remind them in later years of just how well they did. **Results were as follows,**

Reception/Key Stage 1 – Winner Jasmine, St Bartholomews; Runner up Meadow, Neroche

Key Stage 2 – Winner Dylan, St Bartholomews; Runner up Alfred, Greenfyld

KS3 /4 – Winner Zoe; Runners up Billy, Rosemary. All from Wadham.

Some of the shorter poems chosen by performers.....

Reception/ Key Stage 1

Swallows by Jean Kenward

Quick they are and slick they are
And swooping through the air
As if they couldn't stop for joy
And joy had tossed them there.

Loud they are and proud they are
And curving as they call
Fly all the way from Africa
Without a map at all.



Key Stage 2

Nine Mice by Jack Prelutsky

Nine mice on tiny tricycles went
riding on the ice,
They rode in spite of warning
signs

They rode despite advice.

The signs were right, the ice was
thin, in half a trice the mice fell
in,

And from their chins down to
their toes, those mice entirely
froze.

Nine mindless mice who paid
the price are thawing slowly on
the ice, still sitting on their
tricycles.....nine white
and shiny *micicles!*

Key Stage 3 / 4

Not My Day by Russell Hoban

I got up on the wrong side of
the day and came right off; it
walked away, showing the
whites of its eyes.

"Stop" I said, "I mean to get on
top of you". It kept on going.

I followed, knowing days don't
always do exactly what you'd
like them to. "Stand still" I said
"I'm going to try again" .

I thought I heard it neigh a
little, then it kept on walking
while I stood there talking.

"All right", I said (it sounded
like a threat), "I'll see you
later". But I haven't yet.

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Book Review

Hamnet, Maggie O'Farrell..... reviewed by Lynne Oakerbee

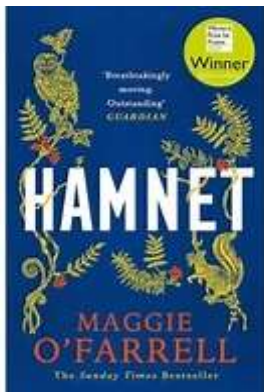
It is no wonder that Maggie O'Farrell's eighth novel Hamnet became the multi prize winning hit of 2020. As well as being fascinating and beautifully told it is a story with links stretching from Elizabethan time right up to today – from 16th century plague to 21st century pandemic. Its themes of death, love, family life as relevant today as then.

The title character is the 11-year-old son of William Shakespeare, known to have died in 1596. Although cause of death was never recorded Maggie O'Farrell takes it as the plague, rife in England at the time and even spends an entire chapter describing, in painstaking detail, the passage of one pestilence ridden flea from Venice to Stratford.

A skilled storyteller she calls her novel an 'imagining' based around certain known facts and she weaves her tale through the sparse details we know of the world's best-known playwright and his family. But Shakespeare is never mentioned by name and is only a supporting player in the story. Names were fluid anyway back then with Hamnet and Hamlet being 'entirely interchangeable'.

The true centre of the novel is Hamnet's mother Agnes, better known to the world as Anne Hathaway. It is her story told through an intertwined timeline that explores her love story and marriage, through family life in Stratford, living with a genius playwright – when Agnes had no idea what a play was – to the heart wrenching grief at the death of their son.

Written in the present tense and with O'Farrell's trademark surfeit of adjectives and similes plus her depth of research – obvious but never intruding – this is a book that invites the reader into the very different world of the people of Elizabethan England. But, at the same time, Maggie O'Farrell believes 'We can empathize more deeply with them, given the parallels between our pandemic and theirs.'



Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
Published by Tinder Press, March 31 2020
Winner of the 2020 Women's Prize for Fiction
Waterstone's Book of the Year 2020
Best Book of 2020 – The Guardian, Financial Times

We'd love to receive YOUR review of a book of your choice, for publication in a future Newsletter. Don't be shy!
Please e mail your contribution to the Festival office - ilminsterlitfest@gmail.com



Identify these words or phrases that all contain the word “Book”

1	Literary prize awarded each year for the best novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.	
2	General name for any insect that is said to bore through books	
3	Place holder for a page that will allow you quick access to it	
4	Recording of financial transactions, and is part of the process of accounting in business	
5	Book publication made available in digital form	
6	Person that accepts and pays off bets on sporting and other events at agreed-upon odds	
7	Person employed to engage performers for a theatre or similar	
8	Very thin book with a small number of pages and a paper cover, giving information about something	
9	Record of important events in the management, operation, and navigation of a ship	
10	Support placed at the end of a row of books	
11	Book containing a comprehensive compilation of content in a branch of study with the intention of explaining it	
12	Type of reference work, or other collection of instructions, that is intended to provide ready reference	
13	Almanac, buyer's guide or other compilation of statistics and information. A term first used in 1633	
14	Frequently used by artists for drawing or painting as a part of their creative process	
15	Process of assembling a book	
16	Ticket or accommodation reserved in advance	
17	Practice of accepting more reservations than there is room for	
18	Collection of blank pages for sticking cuttings, drawings, or pictures in	
19	Support for an open book, usually holding it at a slight angle	
20	Collection of stories, mainly about animals, by Rudyard Kipling	
21	Story set in Germany in the years 1939-1943	
22	Kitchen reference containing recipes	
23	Collection of poems about cats by T S Eliot	
24	Musical comedy which is a satirical examination of the beliefs and practices of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	
25	Information about a place designed for the use of visitors or tourists	



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