

Spring U3A Storytelling Newsletter

The human mind is a very inquisitive entity, craving new experiences and challenges. Stories have the power to teach us our similarities and differences, strengths and weaknesses, understanding and tolerance. Just like the fisherman with his rod and reel, the storyteller has to 'catch' the imagination and attention of his intended audience and reel them in. The text drawn from the African Bambara oral tradition speaks volumes about storytelling and I just wanted to share it with you.

The spoken word is everything.

It cuts, it flays

It models, it modulates.

It disturbs, it maddens.

It heals or kills outright.

It is louder or softer as willed.

It excites or calms the soul.

News of U3A Storytelling Groups

We are known as Tonbridge Storytelling Group 2 and have only met 3 or 4 times. Below are my thoughts so far: started up this year, with no experience of storytelling, so it has been a learning curve. From the suggestions on Elizabeth's newsletter, we have done the following activities: tell a story based on a photograph; update a fairy story or legend; a ghost story; a traveller's tale. Starters/Ice breakers include: two truths and one lie; Fortunately and Unfortunately; 'A walk in the woods' - pass it on to the next person until it is round the room at least once.

We would like to improve our storytelling techniques and we would benefit from more guidance and improvement. At our next meeting we have agreed to bring along some research on how we can develop our storytelling skills. We discussed a weekend course at the Emerson School of Storytelling or a workshop at the Brighton Festival relating to storytelling. We would welcome suggestions from other groups who have had similar experiences.

Tellers of Tales

Some of the group entertained the Life Skills group on St. George's Day. We gave some information about St. George which could be true.. but who knows. We Sang a song, waved a flag, recited a couple of poems and told stories. Everyone enjoyed the morning.

We meet every first Wednesday of the month at a home in Rustington, West Sussex.



The Art of Storytelling Group – Worthing U3A

We are a small but vibrant group who have been meeting once a month for just over a year. We start by telling round robin stories which challenge and stretch our imagination. We each have our own developing story portfolio which we share and tell, and give feedback on. Last Christmas we gave a performance to a residents of a residential home and we are aiming to offer a performance to our U3A creative writing group in the autumn.

Storytelling Events Around The Country.

Storytelling in Amari

Have a look at their programme

<https://www.friends-of-amari.org/programme>

Malvern storytellers

Now meeting in the 2nd Tuesday at Great Malvern Hotel: 8pm

Staffordshire Hoard.

www.staffordshirehoard.org.uk/events/see-it-in-stoke

Beyond the Border Storytelling Festival 9/10 June

www.beyondtheborder.com

Fest, the Federation for European Storytelling

Slovenia, 27-30 June

www.fest-network.eu/

Fate, Festival at the Edge
20-22nd July
www.festivalattheedge.org

Scottish International Storytelling Festival
19-31st October
www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk

Oxford Storytelling festival
24-27 August
www.oxfordstorytellingfestival.co.uk/

Word of Mouth Storytelling Club
Facebook - ' Word of Mouth Storytelling Club
and @WordofMouthMer on Twitter

Belper Arts Festival
17th May
Contact (steel.carpet@tiscali.co.uk)

Sidmouth, Devon
First Tuesday Story cafe
2-4pm June 5th, July 3rd at Twyford House, Sidmouth
Contact JanetTells@gmail.com

Topsham, Devon
Matthews Hall, Topsham, Sat 19th May
www.artemis-storytelling.co.uk/

Don't forget to keep the stories coming in on how your groups are doing.

To those still contemplating whether to start a group, just have a go. Be BOLD and have fun trying. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you all a creative and fun loving time in your groups.

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