

# THE BOOKFEST REMEMBERS CONCERT

*21st November 2015*

ALINGTON HALL • SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

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SHROPSHIRE YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA  
BAND & BUGLES OF THE SHROPSHIRE ACF  
ABRAHAM DARBY ACADEMY SHOWBAND  
SHAWBURY MILITARY WIVES CHOIR  
CONSORTIUM OF CHOIRS FROM SHROPSHIRE SCHOOLS

SHREWSBURY BOOKFEST

[www.shrewsburybookfest.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburybookfest.co.uk)

Reg. Charity No. 1120177

This event is not a sentimental one, but rather more reverential and hopeful. It is an evening of music, poetry, camaraderie and reflection. It commemorates the sacrifice made by the soldiers of the First World War and celebrates some of its literary legacy.

In this year we are particularly mindful of the link to 1915 and the campaign at Gallipoli. *The Tribute to the Fallen* by Atatürk commemorates the sacrifice of those who fell at Gallipoli. The words of this famous speech by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk are inscribed on the Anzac war memorials in Canberra and at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli peninsula. The younger choir members are singing *Waltzing Matilda*, which was a favourite of the Australian soldiers at the time. Leon Gellert was the foremost of the Australian WW1 poets, and his poem *The Last to Leave* is a poignant testimony to his experience at Gallipoli.

Wilfred Owen (1893-1918) holds a special place in the programme because of his connection with Shropshire. He is widely recognised as one of the greatest poets of the First World War. He was born in Oswestry and brought up and educated in Birkenhead and Shrewsbury. He died in northern France on 4 November 1918. He is buried at Ors and his memorial – *Symmetry* – is in the grounds of Shrewsbury Abbey.

However, the war poets by no means speak with one voice and it is interesting to include here *Who's for the Game*, a call to serve by the female poet Jessie Pope, later berated for her naivety, and *Dulce et Decorum Est* by Owen which was partly written as a response.

This concert is a wonderful collaboration between Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest and Shropshire schools, made positive and possible by the talents and voices of young people. Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest aims to bring young people closer to literature and tonight you will hear some of the greatest poetry of the Great War, both spoken and sung.

**Welcome and Introduction:** The High Sheriff of Shropshire, Mr David Stacey

**Reading:** *The draft Preface* by Wilfred Owen, read by Mr David Stacey

**The Band and Bugles of the Shropshire Armed Cadet Force**

directed by Colour Sergeant Ceri Stokes

*Sir John Moore Fanfare – Soldier Boy – Flow Gently – Swing March – Mechanised Infantry  
Retreat*

**Reading:** *Anthem for Doomed Youth* by Wilfred Owen  
read by Cadet Corporal Nathan Gilbertson (Cruckton School)

**Vocal Solo:** *Perhaps* by Vera Brittain (music – Caz Besterman)  
Emma Brotherton (The Corbet School, Baschurch)

**Violin Solo:** *Chanson de Matin* – Elgar  
Stuart Bramwell (Shrewsbury Sixth Form College)

**The Shawbury Military Wives Choir** directed by Neil Welch

*Amazing Grace* – Newton arr. Martin

*By Your Side* – Greg Harradine

*Abide with Me* – Francis Lyte arr. Tickner

**Reading:** *Parable of the Old Man and the Young* by Wilfred Owen  
read by Cadet Colour Sergeant Lauren Hall (Shrewsbury Sixth Form College)

**Vocal solo:** *The End* by Wilfred Owen (music – Caz Besterman)  
Harry Fradley (Ellesmere College)

**Abraham Darby Academy Showband**

*Dies Irae* – Verdi arr. J. Bocook

*The British Legion March* – T. Bidgood

*Songs of the Great War* – arr. R. Wiffin

*Irish Tune from County Derry* – P. A. Grainger

*The Homefront* – arr. J. Christensen

**Bookfest Remembers Choir**

*Waltzing Matilda* (Australian traditional)

*Who's for the Game* by Jessie Pope (music – Caz Besterman)

*Futility* by Wilfred Owen (music – Caz Besterman)

with violin solo by Stuart Bramwell (Shrewsbury Sixth Form College)

## INTERVAL

**Shropshire Youth Wind Orchestra** (conductor: David Heywood)

*Flourish for Wind Band* – Vaughan Williams

*Hymn to the Fallen* – John Williams, arr. Lavender

*March 1914* – arr. Gordon Mackenzie

**Vocal solo:** *Roses of Picardy* (words: F. E. Weatherley, music: H. Wood)

Georgia Hudson (The Priory School)

**Reading:** *Dulce et Decorum Est* by Wilfred Owen,

read by Cadet Colour Sergeant Benjamin Swann (Shrewsbury Sixth Form College)

**Vocal Solo:** *The Poet as Hero* by Siegfried Sassoon (music – Caz Besterman)

Ben Higgins (Shrewsbury School)

**Shropshire Youth Wind Orchestra** (conductor: David Glossop)

*English Folk Song Suite* (three parts) – Vaughan Williams

*Nimrod* – Elgar, arr. Moerenhout

*I Vow to thee, my Country* – Holst, arr. Vaughan Williams

### **Bookfest Remembers Choir**

*Tribute to the Fallen* by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (music – Caz Besterman)

*The Last To Leave* – Leon Gellert (music – Caz Besterman)

*In Flanders Fields* – John McCrae (music – Caz Besterman)

(With the Shawbury Military Wives Choir)

**Reading:** *Strange Meeting* by Wilfred Owen

read by Oliver Turner (Shrewsbury Sixth Form College)

**The Last Post** – played by Cadet Colour Sergeant Ryan Wood  
and Cadet Tony Bennett

**Closing Address:** The High Sheriff of Shropshire, Mr David Stacey

### ***Caz Besterman, Composer and Director***

Caz Besterman is a composer and teacher based in Shropshire. She has written pieces and arrangements for several choirs and ensembles. Her orchestral work, 'Mirror Romance', was premiered in Clifton Cathedral in 2005 and her recent orchestral suite 'Pictures of Bristol' was premiered in 2015. A set of songs using literature from the Great War was published in 2013 by Shorterhouse and she is delighted to be working with Shrewsbury Bookfest for her latest commission. Aside from composing, Caz has taught both music and Classics in schools for a number of years, and also works as an ABRSM examiner.

### ***Anthony Pinel – Accompanist***

Anthony Pinel is Director of Music at St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury. He has been Organ Scholar at Birmingham Cathedral, Assistant Organist of Bristol Cathedral and held Organist and Choirmaster positions at St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, St. Peter's, Morristown, New Jersey, and Grimsby Minster. He has made several recordings both as an organist and conductor and this year his recital venues have included Chester, Bradford and Worcester cathedrals and Bath Abbey.

### ***The Band and Bugles of the Armed Cadet Force***

The Shropshire ACF Band & Bugles are currently affiliated to the Rifles Brigade. They play a variety of instruments and are in high demand around the county for such events as the Remembrance Day Parade and the annual Concert in the Castle.

### ***Shawbury Military Wives Choir***

The Military Wives Choirs network was inspired by the BBC series of 2011 which charted the progress of a choir created by Gareth Malone. After seeing the camaraderie the choir created, wives at other military establishments decided that this was something they would like for themselves. The Shawbury Choir are one of just under 80 choirs of which the majority are based in the UK. They have members from all over the local area including Shawbury, Shrewsbury, Telford and also the Tern Hill Army Barracks, and have members affiliated with the RAF, Army and Navy - a tri-service choir!

### ***Shropshire Youth Wind Orchestra***

Shropshire Youth Wind Orchestra was formed in the early 1970s as a Concert Band. It performs a wide range of music and styles from military band music of the 1920's and 30's, to the latest contemporary repertoire from Europe and America. The current age range is from 13 to 19, with pupils at Grade 6 standard and above, from schools and colleges in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. As well as concerts in Shropshire the SYWO has undertaken a number of European tours, latterly to Spain, Austria, Belgium and Germany.

### ***The Abraham Darby Academy Showband***

Abraham Darby Academy is one of the few schools in the country that provides free instrumental tuition for its students. It has an extensive range of bands, of which the Showband is the most senior. They have performed in many prestigious concert venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Carnegie Hall, New York, and also performed for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. The Showband recently won top prizes in the National Concert Band Festival of Great Britain, National Festival of Music for Youth and the World Music Contest, Holland in 2013.



***With thanks to the following schools and choirs which have collaborated to form the 'Bookfest Remembers Choir', and to their teachers for their support:***

*St George's Junior School*

*Packwood Haugh School*

*The Priory School*

*Ellesmere College*

*Adcote School*

*Shrewsbury Sixth Form College*

*Shropshire Girls Choir*

*St Chad's Youth Choir*

*Karen Sequeira*

*Sarah Boutwood*

*Yvonne Knight*

*Tony Coupe & Rebecca Paul*

*Jane Magee & Caz Besterman*

*David Place & Laurina Rushworth*

*Alison Stevens*

*Anthony Pinel*

*Thanks are due to all the young instrumentalists who have performed tonight, and their directors:*

*David Glossop and David Heywood (Shropshire Youth Wind Orchestra),*

*Rachel Morton (Abraham Darby Academy Showband),*

*Alison Stevens (Shropshire Girls' Choir and the Shropshire Music Service),*

*Ceri Stokes (SACF Band & Bugles).*

*Thanks to Shrewsbury School for allowing Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest to use the Alington Hall, equipment and instruments; thank you in particular to Juliet Young (Events Manager) and John Moore (Director of Music).*

**And thank you to Vicki Archer at BBC Radio Shropshire for ably hosting this event.  
BBC Radio Shropshire will be broadcasting this event at 3pm on Christmas Day  
and at 6pm on 28th December, 2015.**

***Finally, we are deeply grateful to all our sponsors for supporting this event.***



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### BOOKFEST REMEMBERS: Megan Rix, *The Runaways*

**Sunday 22nd November 2015 – 2.30pm**

Shrewsbury Sixth Form College, English Bridge Campus, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6AA

Award-winning children's author Megan Rix will be telling the story of Shanti the elephant, her calf Tara and Harvey the collie dog caught up when the First World War engulfs Europe and their circus is forced to close. *For ages 5+*

**Tickets: £6.00/£4.00 available at the door**

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### BOOKFEST REMEMBERS: *Lights Out*

**Andrew Bannerman (reader), Richard Frewer (tenor) and David Price (piano)**

**Sunday 22nd November 2015 – 4.30pm**

Shrewsbury Sixth Form College, English Bridge Campus, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6AA

*Lights Out* reflects the passage of the Great War, and is an eclectic mixture of tragedy, irony, pathos and humour. It features some of our greatest writers and composers as well as the ordinary men and women caught up in the catastrophe. *Suitable for all ages over 14.*

**Tickets: £8.00/£5.00 available at the door**

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## BOOK AWARD 2016

Over 1,000 pupils from 28 primary schools across Shropshire will be taking part in Book Award 2016 and will be reading and voting for their favourite book from the shortlist.

Full details at [www.shrewsburybookfest.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburybookfest.co.uk)

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## THE MAY FESTIVAL 2016

The May Festival 2016 will take place from Friday 29th April to Monday 2nd May 2016 at venues across Shrewsbury.

Leading children's authors, storytellers and theatre groups will visit Shrewsbury to deliver fun events and workshops for children, their families and carers and friends.

If you would like to be among the first to know about all the wonderful events we have lined up, please email [info@shrewsburybookfest.co.uk](mailto:info@shrewsburybookfest.co.uk) to join the database or visit our website – [www.shrewsburybookfest.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburybookfest.co.uk)