



Robert Grave Poetry Prize 2020 announced

Entries are invited to the **Robert Graves Poetry Prize**, a collaboration between the **University of Roehampton** and **Wimbledon BookFest**.

The prize is judged by leading Literary Agent, Peter Straus and Professor Paul O'Prey, former assistant to Robert Graves, and sponsored by Marcus Beale Architects. The winning entrant will be awarded £1,000 and two runners up will each be awarded £100.

The prize is named in honour of Wimbledon-born poet Robert Graves and offers an opportunity for emerging and established poets to be recognised for their skill by one of the country's leading centres for poetry, and a well-established literary festival.

The prize is unrestricted by location, genre, or subject, and is open to everyone. Entries must be original poems written in English, no longer than 40 lines. The entry fee of £5 per poem will help ensure the future of Wimbledon BookFest. Submissions are via:

www.wimbledonbookfest.org.

Wimbledon BookFest is London's leading annual literary festival in the community offering a unique opportunity for audiences to engage with internationally bestselling authors such as Salman Rushdie, Ben Okri, Ian McEwan, Kate Atkinson and Elif Shafak. **Wimbledon BookFest** is a registered Arts and Education Charity with any profits made put towards funding the **Word Up** Education programme, which enables over 10,000 school children from over 100 state, independent and SEN school in Merton and across South London to take part in a variety of projects focused around literacy.

Provisional dates for Wimbledon BookFest 2020 are 8-18 October and further plans for this year's festival will be announced soon.

For further press information and images please contact Emma Dowson on edowson@virginmedia.com or 07726 321622.

Notes to Editors

1. Wimbledon BookFest, (Registered Charity Wimbledon Arts no 1120297) is an arts and education not-for-profit organisation which runs an annual public festival in the autumn and a year round Word Up Education Programme in Merton and neighbouring boroughs. It provides a programme across all socio-economic groups with local schools which aims to harness the power of reading, writing and literature to improve the educational opportunities of children and young people in South London. The diverse programme is designed to appeal to the differing needs and interests of children and young people from early primary years through to sixth form. Over 100 schools from the state, independent and SEN sectors in Merton and across South London have taken part in the Festival to date.

2. Provisional dates for Wimbledon BookFest 2020 are 8-18 October.
2. BookFest's Principal Sponsor is the University of Roehampton.
3. Wimbledon BookFest was founded in 2006 by Fiona Razvi and Tony Kane who were both immersed in the arts community working for local magazine *Time & Leisure* and first held in 2007. They founded the charity Wimbledon Arts to run the organisation (registered charity no 1120297). The Festival's aim is to develop the role of arts and culture in the area and it works with local partners including community groups, schools and businesses to do this. It embraces all art forms in its programming and is keen to showcase and nurture new local talent as well as bringing in external talent. The festival aims to build on its growing reputation as a festival that embraces the arts in all its forms.
4. The Festival has 100+ events for the public and schools on the festival site on Wimbledon Common. Previous participating authors include: Salman Rushdie, Ben Okri, Graham Norton, Kate Atkinson, Michael Palin, Yotam Ottolenghi, Nick Clegg, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Nadiya Hussain, Shami Chakrabarti, Antony Gormley, William Boyd, Kate Mosse, Jeremy Paxman, Emily Maitlis James O'Brien, Claire Balding, Michael Morpurgo, Maggie O'Farrell, Vince Cable, Josh Widdicombe, Michael Rosen, Alexander McCall-Smith, Paul Merton, Afua Hirsch, Neil McGregor, Harry Hill, and Ian McEwan.
5. Please see www.wimbledonbookfest.org for more details about events and competitions.

6. University of Roehampton

The University of Roehampton, London, is an established international higher-education institution providing a high-quality learning and research experience with the aim of developing personal growth and driving social change.

The University has a proud and distinguished history dating back to the 1840s and it was one of the first institutions in the UK to admit women to its colleges of higher education. This tradition of commitment to equality continues to be part of the ethos of the University, which has one of the most diverse and thriving communities of students in the UK; its 9,000 student body includes international students from over 146 countries.

Today the University is renowned for its broad range of expertise across teacher training, business, social sciences, the arts and humanities, as well as human and life sciences, with world leading and internationally recognised research in these fields. www.roehampton.ac.uk