

Appendix One

Case Studies

Literature festivals have been a feature of life in towns across England for some years now. Many have evolved with very different styles of festival attracting different audiences across the country. In considering the future for arrangements for the Morley Literature Festival it is worth reviewing the operation of other festivals. These are some of the examples available.

Bath Literature festival

Starting in 1995, the Bath Literature Festival has become a well established ten days of literary events, encompassing writing in all its forms. The festival is fast gaining a reputation for presenting the very best in local, national and international writers to an ever-increasing audience. The Festival takes place in late February/early March in Bath city centre. The Festival has become an important date on the national literary circuit, playing host to an array of journalists, novelists, poets, politicians, actors, comedians, scriptwriters and biographers. In an intensive nine-day programme embracing over 100 events, the Festival presents fascinating literary personalities reading their work, giving forth on their ideas or taking part in discussions with other experts and enthusiastic audiences.

Organisation: In 2003 writer and broadcaster Sarah Le Fanu took over as artistic director. She has brought a renewed life and vibrancy to the Festival, which since her appointment has hosted a vast selection of literary names including Terry Pratchett, Joanna Trollope, Margaret Atwood, and Alexander McCall Smith

Funding: Funding is received from national and local businesses, Pen Friends and trusts & foundations, in addition to core funds from Bath & North East Somerset Council and Arts Council England.

For more info: www.bathlitfest.org.uk

Beverley Literature festival

The Beverley literature festival is part of the Woodquake project which was set up to promote creative writing and reading throughout the East Riding of Yorkshire. The festival offers a balance of the finest prose writers and poets around for you to talk to and hear, and a blend of readers' groups and writers workshops. The festival has been going for five years and is held over a weekend in October.

Organisation: The Beverley Literature Festival is managed by the part-time project-director Dr John Clarke and temporary, part-time festival assistant Glynis

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Charlton, and with professional advice, help and office support from East Riding Library Service.

Funding: The Beverley Literature Festival is part of the Wordquake project, which receives regular funding from Arts Council England, East Riding of Yorkshire Library Service and East Riding Arts Unit.

For more info: www.beverley-literature-festival.org.uk

Ilkley Literature Festival

Ilkley Literature Festival began in 1973, the brainchild of Michael Dawson, the first Director of the newly formed Yorkshire Arts Association. The story goes that during the 1971 postal strike, lack of mail gave him the space to browse through a stack of brochures from arts festivals across the country. Discovering that only Cheltenham was predominantly concerned with literature and that there was nothing of the kind in the North, he set about instituting a new Literature Festival in Ilkley, his home town.

Events take place in a variety of venues across the town, from a well equipped modern studio theatre for 150 at Ilkley Playhouse; to the large function rooms at the imposing Craiglands Hotel and the ornate Grade 2 listed nineteenth century Kings Hall, with its gilded boxes and balconies, seating 500. The Children's Festival has a home at the newly built All Saints Church of England Primary School and other events take place in the Crescent Hotel and the Education Room at the Manor House Museum. There are projects and residencies involving local schools and community organisations across the town and a lively Fringe that squashes into any venue it can find.

Organisation: The festival employs a Director two days a week all year round to run and coordinate the festival.

Funding: Arts Council England, Yorkshire
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
West Yorkshire Grants

Key Findings

- **All three festivals have a director employed full or part time to organise the festival**
- **All three festivals have a several funders and sponsors to contribute towards the cost of the event.**