

Middlemarch and Small Town Life Clun Feb 24-26 2012



Always wanted to get to the bottom of Middlemarch? Maybe you've started it, and haven't got very far- or you finished it and loved it- but would welcome the chance to deepen your knowledge in the company of experts. Or maybe you would welcome the chance to explore George Eliot's themes of provincial life through your own creative writing.

And where better to do that than in the small town of Clun in Shropshire? 3 miles off the Welsh Border and Offa's Dyke, and in an area of outstanding natural beauty, yet well set up for modern life with 2 pubs, a cafe, shops and internet access. Clun is the perfect setting for relaxation and exchanging ideas with like minded people.

Writers and tutors *Polly Wright* and *Anira Rowanchild*, and *Professor Bill Greenslade* will facilitate workshops on different aspects of Middlemarch and inspire you to respond to it in writing and discussion.

Polly Wright is a lecturer, writer and actress. A founder member of Birmingham's Women and Theatre, and Artistic Director of the Theatre in Health company *Hearth*, Polly has written many plays and cabaret sketches. Her plays about health are regularly performed nationally. Her short stories have been published by Diva Press and Tindal Street Press, most recently in the showcase anthology *Are You She?*, edited by Lesley Glaister, where her work was well reviewed in the Observer, Time Out and Mslexia. She also teaches Literature in Medicine at Birmingham University Medical School and is an artist tutor at the Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

Anira Rowanchild is a lecturer, poet and artist whose writing and painting focuses particularly on the life of the Welsh Borders, where she has lived and worked all her life. She has published poetry and short stories, including for The Women's Press, Writing Women and Landscape Recordings. Anira teaches literature and creative writing for the Open University and her specialist subject area is women's autobiographical writing, fiction and poetry of the 19th and early 20th centuries on which she has published widely.

Prof Bill Greenslade is a lecturer and academic at the University of West England and his scholarly interests focus broadly on the relations between literature, history and culture in nineteenth and twentieth-century Britain. He has published widely and has recently written on Gissing and the reading problem, Shakespeare and nineteenth-century politics and Hardy and friendship. He is the convenor of UWE's Long Nineteenth Century Network (LNCN).

Participants are recommended to read *Middlemarch* before attending the course and bring their copy with them

Details of the course:

- 7 pm Friday Feb 24 – 3 pm Sunday Feb 26 (2 nights).
- Course fee: £70 per person, which includes lunches on Saturday and Sunday
- Participants should book their own Bed and Breakfast accommodation and evening meals, See www.clun.org.uk for info on local accommodation.
- Public transport: Trains to Craven Arms and Ludlow. Buses and taxis from both to Clun. See Clun website.
- Private transport: 2 hours from Birmingham by car. Map on Clun website.
- Detailed timetable to follow
- Venue: Hazelhurst Hall, Clun

Participants will be invited to attend a free poetry reading in Clun in the evening of Feb 25th

If you are interested and would like to book a place, please contact Polly Wright by Feb 8th at

HEARTH

Change Through the Arts

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