



AUTOGRAPHS/NOTES



Kent Literature Festival

19-22 October 1983

at
The Arts Centre

New Metropole
The Leas
Folkestone, Kent

Promoted by
South East Arts and the
Kent County Council Education Committee
Sponsored by
W.H. Smith & Son Ltd
and the National Poetry Secretariat



Programme of Events

**WEDNESDAY
19 OCTOBER**

EVENT 1

10.30 am - 12.30 pm
and 1.30 pm - 5 pm
£10 per school group
(maximum of 6 representatives per school)
Autumn Room
(Light lunch available)

SCHOOL MAGAZINE WORKSHOP

Tutors **Jeremy Miles** and **Douglas Hall** will conduct a full-day workshop for pupils, students and teachers who are involved in writing, editing, planning and producing a school magazine. There will be talks, projects, practical demonstrations and writing sessions organised by a professional journalist/news editor and a design/print expert.



Jeremy Miles

Jeremy Miles has been a professional journalist and writer for the past 12 years. He works as News Editor of the **Folkestone, Hythe & District Herald** and **South Kent Gazette** but has also been involved in many freelance articles and projects. He specialises in writing about music, the arts and travel; the latter being one of his favourite activities. Recent years have seen him working on projects in New York and Paris as well as collaborating on a travel book in Sri Lanka and a series of articles in Hong Kong and China.

Douglas Hall was born in Yorkshire in 1931. He studied Art and Design at Doncaster and Leeds Colleges of Art. He went on to study Painting and Drawing, Etching and Lithography at the Royal College of Art, London. Since then he has made his living as a freelance book illustrator and designer. He has recently published a book for younger children, **Douglas Hall's Animal Nursery Rhymes** (Hamlyn) and hopes to produce a second book next year. For the past 10 years he has also taught portrait, figure and landscape painting and drawing in Adult Education. Douglas Hall designed the new Kent Literature Festival logo which appears on the front of this brochure.



Douglas Hall

EVENT 2

Wednesday 12 midday
£1.50
Gallery

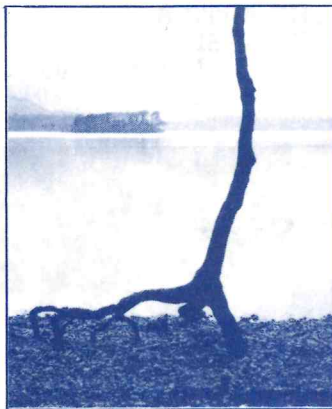
PRESENCES OF NATURE

The Lake District in Poetry and Prose. Featuring **Melvyn Bragg**, **Fleur Adcock** and **Jon Silkin**.

On show throughout this year's Kent Literature Festival in the main Gallery of Folkestone Arts Centre is the exhibition 'Presences of Nature'.

This exhibition reflects the beauty and variety of the Cumbrian landscape in prints, crafts, photographs, paintings and sculpture from some of Britain's leading visual artists.

However, the Lake District has not only been an inspiration to artists; indeed, the region is more readily associated with poets and writers (Wordsworth, Coleridge, Southey, Matthew Arnold and Beatrix Potter) and so it is fitting that this year's Festival is launched by a literary event which complements the exquisitely romantic images which visitors to the Festival can admire and enjoy throughout the week.



'Tree on Shingle, Derwentwater' photograph by Fay Godwin from the exhibition **Presences of Nature** on show throughout the Festival in the Arts Centre's main Gallery.

Fleur Adcock was born in New Zealand but has spent more than half her life in this country. She worked as a librarian in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office until 1979, and is now a freelance writer. She has held an Arts Council Creative Writing Fellowship at Charlotte Mason College of Education, Ambleside, Cumbria, and was Northern Arts Fellow in Literature at the Universities of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Durham.

Her publications include five full-length collections of poetry, of which the latest is **The Inner Harbour** (Oxford University Press, 1979), and a pamphlet of poems about the Lake District, **Below Loughrigg** (Bloodaxe Books, 1979). She is editor of **The Oxford Book of Contemporary New Zealand Poetry** (1982). Her **Selected Poems** were published by Oxford University Press in June of this year, and around the same time a small collection of translations from medieval Latin poetry, **The Virgin and the Nightingale** was published by Bloodaxe Books.

(See next two events for information about Jon Silkin and Melvyn Bragg)



(Photo: Jane Ussher)

Fleur Adcock

EVENT 3

Wednesday 2 pm
£1.25 - teachers free
(maximum 50 students per school party)
Gallery

Schools' Lecture THE POETRY AND PROSE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

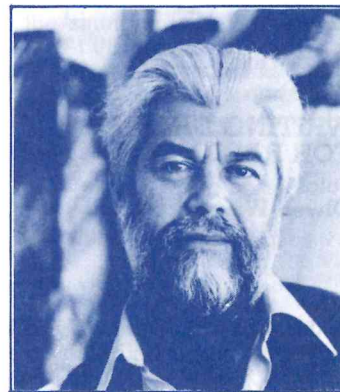
presented by **Jon Silkin**

Jon Silkin edited the highly respected **Penguin Book of First World War Poetry** in 1979 and he is now editing a book on prose written during that same period. For this presentation - specially devised for secondary school 4th, 5th and 6th form students - Jon Silkin will read from the anthology of the War Poets. (A specially written 4-page Information Sheet will be given to all students attending this event).

study of First World War Poets and **The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry**. He is the founder and co-editor of the literary quarterly **Stand**. He has also visited universities in the USA, Israel and Australia as a teacher of creative writing.

One of Britain's leading poets, Jon Silkin's first collection, **The Peaceable Kingdom**, appeared in 1954. His work appeared in **Penguin Modern Poets 7** and his other poetry books include **The Principle of Water** (Carcenet, 1974); **The Psalms With Their Spoils** (Routledge, 1980) and his **Selected Poems** (Routledge) also appeared in 1980.

Apart from his poetry, Jon Silkin has written **Out of Battle** (Oxford University Press, 1972), a critical



Jon Silkin

EVENT 4
 Wednesday 7.30 pm
 £2.50
 Gallery

At last year's Kent Literature Festival, Melvyn Bragg talked about his own career as a writer. For this event he dons his other hat to speak as one of Britain's leading television arts editors best known for his award-winning programme **The South Bank Show**.

To introduce this event, Melvyn Bragg writes: "People in this country get most of their information and entertainment from television. It is also the biggest forum for and the biggest patron of the Arts. Recently there has been increasing acknowledgement of the multiple benefits coming from television. In these swiftly changing times, then, I would like to talk about the connection between Television and the Arts;

THE ARTS AND TELEVISION
 - A talk by **Melvyn Bragg**



Melvyn Bragg
 (Photo: South Kent Newspapers)

the values which are added and the qualities which might be subtracted. The talk will refer across the whole board and be illustrated by specific television programmes."

EVENT 5
 Wednesday 9.45 pm - 10.30 pm
 75p
 Summer Restaurant



Bill Lewis
 (Photo: Eugene Doyen)

LATE NIGHT POEMS & PINTS

Relax with a drink, bring along a poem to read and listen to special guest **Bill Lewis**, performer extraordinaire and one of the founder members of the Medway Poets.

Bill Lewis was born in 1953 in Maidstone, Kent, to a rural working-class family. He left school aged 15 for an £8 a week job in a grocer's shop. He then worked in a supermarket for six years, attended Medway College of Design as a mature student, and worked for three years in a hospital sterilizing instruments. He is married and lives in Chatham where he works on his writing full-time.

EVENT 6
 10.30 am - 12.30 pm
 and 1.30 pm - 5 pm
 £10 per person (advance booking essential)
 Mikado Room

Creative Writing
 Workshop

WRITING DRAMA FOR RADIO

Tutor:
Olwen Wymark

In this workshop Olwen Wymark will lead discussions about the problems, pitfalls and pleasures of writing drama for radio. The workshop will also include analysis of students' own work which may be submitted in advance.* The aim of the workshop will be active participation from everyone and the atmosphere will be informal.

Olwen Wymark is an American playwright resident in London. She has been writing for theatre, television and radio on both sides of the Atlantic since the 1960's. For radio she has written 10 plays - one of which won the Giles Cooper Award for Radio Drama in 1978 and in 1979 the same play was nominated for the coveted Italia Prize. Some of her plays are available in print: **Three Plays** and **The Gymnasium and Other Plays** are published by John Calder; **Find Me and Loved** by Samuel French; **Female Parts** (adaptations of four plays by Dario Fo) is available from Pluto Press and **Play Ten** is published by Edward Arnold.

Olwen Wymark is the widow of the actor Patrick Wymark. She has four children, two of whom are actors.



Olwen Wymark

* Only students accepted for this workshop may submit scripts in advance. Scenes of not more than six pages should be sent immediately a place on the workshop is confirmed. Send your script by 10 October to John Rice, Festival Organiser at South East Arts for forwarding to the tutor.

EVENT 7
 Thursday 11 am - 12.30 pm
 £1 per child; teachers free
 (maximum 50 children per school party)
 (admission includes refreshments)
 Summer Restaurant

SUPERSONGS 'N' PRICELESS POEMS

By popular demand we have called on the inimitable talents of poet **Mike Rosen** and musician **Bob Pegg** to entertain children of junior/middle school age.

Children bring your teachers and bring some money for a paperback book!



Bob Pegg
 Photo: South Kent Newspapers



Mike Rosen
 (Photo: James E. Hadfield)

EVENT 8
 Thursday 12 midday
 £1.50
 Gallery

WORDS INTO PRINT

- A discussion event specially designed to assist and encourage new and emerging writers whilst offering valuable up-to-the-minute information on new outlets for practising writers.

Whilst traditional publishing outlets for poetry and short stories continue to shrink, one area of publishing continues to flourish and become increasingly more professional. This growing area of publishing is no longer known as the 'small presses', preferring to be called 'the independent presses'. At this event, three leading literary editors will offer their views, experience and suggestions about contributing poetry, stories, articles, reviews, literary journalism and imaginative prose to today's new range of independent presses and magazines.

THE PANEL OF EXPERTS WILL INCLUDE:

Judy Cooke who is Editor of the **Fiction Magazine**. Judy has taught in the Extra Mural Department of the University of London and also published a novel **New Road** (Gollancz). She has contributed stories and articles to various magazines and is the fiction reviewer for the **New Statesman**.

Andrew Motion was born in 1952. From 1976-81 he was lecturer in English at the University of Hull. Presently he is Poetry Editor of Chatto & Windus. He has published two books of criticism: **The Poetry of Edward Thomas** (Routledge, 1980) and **Philip Larkin** (Methuen, 1982) and three books of poetry: **The Pleasure Steamers** (Carcantet, 1978),

**THURSDAY
 20 OCTOBER**

Independence (Salamander, 1981) and **Secret Narratives** (Salamander, 1983). He co-edited, with Blake Morrison, the controversial **Penguin Book of Contemporary British Poetry** published late last year. Until recently he was editor of the Poetry Society's magazine **Poetry Review**.

Roland John was born in 1940. His poetry, translations, critical articles and review work have appeared in **Agenda**, **Poetry Review**, and many other magazines and periodicals both here and in the USA. He has published several small collections of poetry, the latest being **Boundaries** (Interim Press) and **Theme from the Chinese: The Child Bride's Diary** (Oasis Books). A major selection of his poetry, **Believing Words are Real**, is due from Agenda Editions in the Autumn.

He is the editor and founder of **Hippopotamus Press**, an independent poetry press devoted to finding the new and printing the neglected. The press started by publishing pamphlets; but now concentrates on full size paperbacks. Roland John's experience in the field of independent press publishing has ensured sales success for over 20 books and pamphlets published by the Hippopotamus Press.



Judy Cooke

EVENT 9
Thursday 2 pm
£1.25; teachers free
(maximum 50 students per school party)
Gallery

James Berry is particularly well known for his extensive work in schools and colleges where he reads his poetry and talks about how to achieve racial harmony. He came to Britain in 1948 from Jamaica and in 1976 he edited **Bluefoot Traveller** (Harrap), an anthology of Caribbean poetry. In 1979 New Beacon Books published **Fractured Circles** and in 1981 he published **Cut-Way Feelins**. Also in that year James Berry won the National Poetry Competition for his poem 'Fantasy of an African Boy'.

John Agard, poet and children's writer, was born in Guyana, South America where he grew up and received his education. As a performer, he likes to call himself a "poetsonian". He moved to Britain in 1977 and is currently attached to the Commonwealth Institute as part of their Talks-to-Schools Services. Since coming to England, he has had three children's books published by Bodley Head: **Letters for Lettie**, a collection of stories; **Dig Away Two-Hole Tim**, a picture book; and **I Din Do Nuttin**, a collection of poems, was published this year.

RHYTHMS OF THE CARIBBEAN
An event specially designed to appeal to 1st, 2nd and 3rd year secondary school students (12-15 years) featuring poets **James Berry** and **John Agard** with drummer **Mario Bayor** in a programme of poetry, stories, humour and music that brings a multi-cultural view of the world to young people.



James Berry and John Agard performing with a musical backdrop.

Mario Bayor lives in London and works with the Dagarti Arts Group which specializes in African music and dance workshops. Mario himself plays the xylophone, gyl, drums, flute, and many African instruments including the wule and gankoko.

EVENT 10
Thursday 2 pm - 3.30 pm
£1 per child; teachers free
(maximum 50 children per school party)
(Admission includes refreshments)
Summer Restaurant

SUPERSONGS 'N' PRICELESS POEMS

The second show of the day and a new audience of junior/middle schoolchildren who will be thoroughly entertained by musician **Bob Pegg** and children's writer **Mike Rosen**. Well they say two beards are better than one!

EVENT 11
Thursday 7.30 pm
£2.50
Gallery

One of Britain's most celebrated writers, Fay Weldon had rather humble beginnings in copywriting (she created the slogan "Go to work on an egg"!). Since those early days in the '60s, she has gone on to write over 20 highly praised television plays for BBC and ITV as well as contributing to several series such as **Upstairs Downstairs**. Fay Weldon has had unique success as a radio dramatist having won the Giles Cooper Award for Best Radio Play in 1978 and the 1973 Writers' Guild Award for Best Radio Play. She has also written works for the stage which are regularly in performance throughout the world.

Novelist in Person
FAY WELDON reads from and talks about her writing.



Fay Weldon
(Photo: Michael McKeown)

Since her first novel, **The Fat Woman's Joke** was published in 1967, Fay Weldon's reputation has grown with the arrival of each new book. Her most recent novels are **Praxis** (Coronet); **The President's Child** (Hodder & Stoughton); **Puffball** (Coronet) and **Watching Me, Watching You** - a selection of short stories available in paperback from Coronet.

This year Rainbird Books published her non-fiction work **Jane Austen and Her Times** and her eagerly-awaited new novel **The Lives and Loves of a She-Devil** has recently been published by Hodder & Stoughton.

This year Fay Weldon chairs the Booker McConnell Prize judging panel.

Last year 75% of the Festival sold out in advance so make sure you BOOK EARLY this year.

EVENT 12
Thursday 9.45 pm - 10.30 pm
75p
Summer Restaurant

LATE NIGHT POEMS AND PINTS

Fetch a drink from the bar, bring along a poem to read and listen to tonight's special guest **Paul Bura** read some of his unique comic verse.

Paul Bura is no stranger to Folkestone Arts Centre where he performed many times during the 1970's at 'Pink Peace' concerts and other music and poetry events. He has published many collections of poetry and his style ranges from lyrical love ballads and spiritual poems to some of the most hilarious comic verse you are likely to hear! Paul has worked as a poet with jazz bands and recently made his West End stage debut in the play 'The Last Trial of Mrs M.' which established him as a fine actor despite his disability caused through polio as a child. Of this professional voice actor, the Irish writer Christy Brown said: **"His voice is superb, it would make Dylan Thomas growl in his grave with envy."**



Paul Bura

EVENT 13
10.30 am - 12.30 pm
and 1.30 pm - 5 pm
£10 per person
Mikado Room
(Advance booking essential)

Creative Writing Workshop:
WRITING DRAMA FOR TELEVISION
Tutor: **Eric Paice**

This workshop will be based broadly upon the tutor's own book, **The Way To Write For Television** (Elm Tree Books) and his experience of 25 years as a freelance writer of plays, series and serials for the BBC and ITV companies. It will take the students through the various stages of the development of the script from the conception of the original idea to the final shooting script. It will also explain and define the various stages of production that follow the writing for the series, serial or adaptation as distinct from the single play. As writing for the small screen and the cinema is now coming closer together, the workshop will also be discussing the various new outlets for the screen dramatist through cable, video-cassette and direct broadcasting satellite. Students will be encouraged to participate enthusiastically in this unique full-day writing workshop.

Eric Paice has many credits as a television dramatist. Apart from plays for ABC's 'Armchair Theatre' in the early '60s, he has also written single plays for BBC Schools programmes and Scottish Television. He wrote 60 episodes of 'Dixon of Dock Green'; 32 episodes of 'The Brothers' and 9 episodes of 'The Avengers'. Other series and serials on which he has worked include 'Buccaneer', 'Secret Army' and a 13-part adaptation of Stevenson's 'Kidnapped'. Eric Paice has also written stage plays and is Past President of The Writers' Guild of Great Britain.



Eric Paice

CLINGING TO THE WRECKAGE

A talk by **John Mortimer**



John Mortimer

reveal a dazzling, glittering treasure trove of reminiscences. In the Spring of this year, Penguin published **In Character**, a collection of John Mortimer's interviews with personalities as diverse as Graham Greene, Enoch Powell, Eric Morecombe and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

EVENT 14
Friday 12 midday
£2.00
Gallery

Distinguished critic, award-winning playwright, barrister, scriptwriter and novelist, John Mortimer worked for the Crown Film Unit during the war and published a number of novels before turning to the theatre. His plays include **Voyage Round My Father, The Dock Brief, and What Shall We Tell Caroline?** and his translations of Feydeau have been performed at the National Theatre. He has written many film scripts, television and radio plays, including six plays on the life of Shakespeare, the 'Rumpole' plays which won him the British Academy Writer of the Year Award, **Unity** and, most recently, the adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's **Brideshead Revisited** which received both an Emmy and a Rocky (the Canadian equivalent!). In his best selling book **Clinging To The Wreckage** (Penguin) John Mortimer looks back at his life to

FRIDAY
21 OCTOBER

EVENT 15
Friday 7.00 pm
£1 adults, 50p children (price includes refreshments)
Autumn Room

GHOST STORIES AND SPOOKY TALES

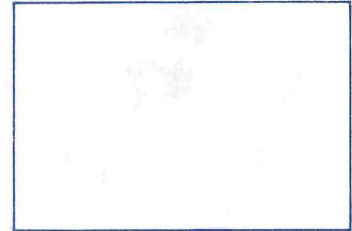
- An evening of story-telling by **Jan Mark** suitable for the whole family.

Are you one of those people who lies awake at night listening for the wailing of ghosts and the clanking of chains? Do you go on expeditions in search of spooks, spirits and scary monsters? If so, then this spine-chilling story-telling session is just for you . . . and who knows, the Phantom Grey Lady of the New Metropole may just appear from the darkest depths of the basement - oooooohh!

Jan Mark grew up in North London and Kent. From 1965-71 she taught in Southfields Secondary School in Kent and now lives in Norfolk. In 1976 she published her Guardian Fiction Award-winning novel for children **Thunder and Lightnings** (Puffin) and has subsequently published **Hairs in the Palm of the Hand** (Kestrel); **The Short Voyage of the Albert Ross** (Granada) **The Dead Letter Box** (Hamish Hamilton) and **Nothing To Be Afraid Of** (Puffin). This year she has two new books out - one a collection of stories **Feet** (Kestrel) and **Handles** also from Kestrel. Jan Mark is very popular with schools and colleges as a result of her wide range of experience with education and young people and also her involvement in the creation of children's literature. She also says she can speak in a spooky voice!!



Jan Mark



Fill this space with a drawing of a ghostly character!

For children there will be plenty of ghost books to buy in the bookshop and for adults there will be plenty of spirits in the bar! At this event we will be forcing you to sample - free of charge - our specially fermented Dracula Juice and Monster Munch snacks. These will be served by a team of Ugly Ushers and Undead Usherettes.

This event is sponsored by **TVS**

EVENT 16
Friday 8.00 pm
£3.00
Summer Restaurant

Ranters' Rave!
featuring
ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER and SEETHING WELLS

If you like your poetry/verse/raps/rants (call it what you will) hard-edged and spikey, then this is for you! Not suitable for children, Folkestone hippies, embroiderers, Mills & Boon readers, nor tiny tobaccoconists and their spouses!

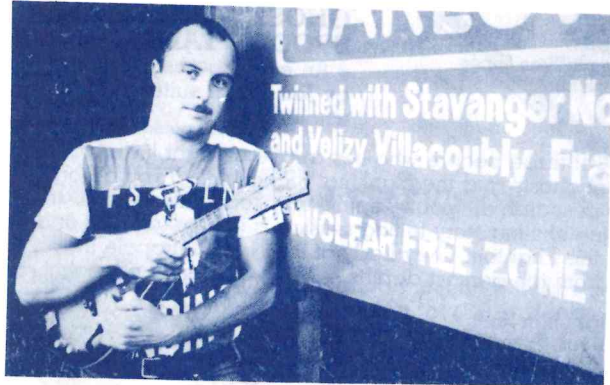
Attila the Stockbroker has appeared with The Jam and is a self-described "Street-Ranter and Manic Mandolin Merchant". His work has the verve and rapid delivery of the New Wave and the politics of the radical left. Got riot if you want it!

Seething Wells tells us he is a "shy and retiring yob" who is responsible for the amazing **Molotov Comics** which "has done for poetry magazines what the Daily Mirror did for journalism." It was on his initiative that the organization **Rant Against Relics** was founded and he wrote the original manifesto. Here's Swells' version of what he's doing: "Despite the efforts of populist

poets and ranters, the word poetry still stinks of the late '60's hippy tag. The only way this can be eroded is through constant demystification. There should be **no** barrier between the poet and the punter. We should not tolerate the drab, the un-funny, the dross and the downright boring in the name of 'art'. We must take back **our** culture on **our** terms. Hello flowers, hello trees!"



Seething Wells



Attila the Stockbroker

INTERVAL: bar (and bookshop) open.

Ticket also includes admission to late night Film 9.45 pm



TEN YEARS IN AN OPEN NECK SHIRT

An Arts Council film about the poet **JOHN COOPER-CLARKE** GB 1982 (A) 60 minutes
Director: Nick May

Rock poet, storyteller and comic, John Cooper-Clarke has had a tremendous influence on contemporary oral poetry. In the spring of this year Arena paperbacks published a collection of his engaging and off-beat verse.

EVENT 17
12 midday
£1.25
Gallery



Ted Allbeury

IS THERE LIFE AFTER AGATHA CHRISTIE?

Espionage fiction writer **Ted Allbeury** looks at thrillers. In this presentation Ted Allbeury will point to the vast differences that have appeared over the last 50 years between the general novel and the crime/thriller novel. He will discuss the range of genre fiction covered by television, radio and the novel.

Ted Allbeury served as an officer in the army's Intelligence Corps during and after the last war. He was, for some time, a director of an advertising agency in Tunbridge Wells; he has also been a farmer and a PR consultant. His books are available as Granada paperbacks and some of his more recent works include **Consequence of Fear**, **The Twentieth Day of January**, **The Reaper**, **The Man with the President's Mind** and **The Alpha List**. His most recent book **Pay Any Price** (also from Granada) was serialised on Radio 4 during the Summer.

"Truly a classic writer of espionage fiction" - **Len Deighton**
"Ted Allbeury is one of the best half dozen writers of adventure and spy fiction in the world today." - **Ted Willis**

EVENT 18
Saturday 2.00 pm
£1.25
Gallery

POETRY SOUTH EAST

A reading from the 1983 South East Arts poetry anthology **Poetry South East 8** featuring the Editor for this year's edition **Anthony Thwaite**, who will read poems from the book and discuss his choice. Anthony Thwaite will be joined by two contributors to the anthology: **John Whitworth** and **Wendy Perriam** who will also read a selection of the book's contents.

(The 1983 edition of **Poetry South East** features work from poets such as **Derek Sellen**, **Roger Crowley**, **Madeline Munro**, **Elizabeth Bartlett**, **Patric Dickinson**, **Ian Caws** and **Hubert Moore**. Copies of the book will be on sale at the reading).

Anthony Thwaite was born in 1930, spent his childhood in Yorkshire, the United States and Somerset, and completed his formal education at Christ Church, Oxford. He has taught English in universities in Japan and Libya, worked as a BBC radio producer, was literary editor in turn of **The Listener**, and the **New Statesman**, and since 1973 has been co-editor of **Encounter**. He has published seven books of poems, most recently **A Portion of Foxes** (1977) and **Victorian Voices** (1980), both from Oxford University Press, and he is preparing a Collected Poems for publication early in 1984. He has also published several books of criticism, anthologies (including the **Penguin Book of Japanese Verse**), what he calls 'texts for travel books', and a great deal of literary journalism. He is a frequent broadcaster, mainly on Radio 3, but is also preparing a 16-part series on poetry from Chaucer to the present day for eventual transmission on Channel 4.



Anthony Thwaite

SATURDAY
22 OCTOBER



John Whitworth

John Whitworth was born in 1945 and educated in Edinburgh and Oxford. Secker & Warburg have published two collections of his poems. The first, **Unhistorical Fragments**, won the Alice Hunt Bartlett Award of the Poetry Society and 2nd prize in the South East Arts Literature Prizes. His second, **Poor Butterflies**, came out in 1982. He teaches foreign students English and lives in Canterbury.

Wendy Perriam was born in London in 1940 and read history at St Anne's College, Oxford. She worked as a copywriter in advertising for twelve years, writing poetry and short stories in her spare time. She now writes full-time and has had three novels published by Michael Joseph, the most recent of which, **After Purple**, is now available in Penguin. She has recently completed her fourth and longest novel. She lives in Surrey.



Wendy Perriam

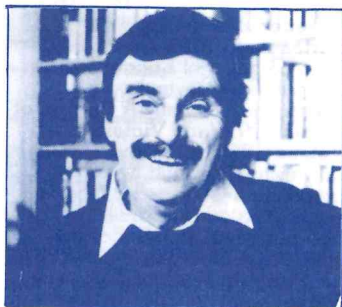
(Note: South East Arts' next anthology will be published in the spring of 1985 in collaboration with Secker & Warburg. It will be the first in a series of 'Short Stories from the South East' - submissions from writers in Kent, East Sussex or Surrey only to South East Arts by 1st March 1984).

EVENT 19
Saturday 4.30 pm
£2.00
Gallery

MY WORLD OF ISLANDS

A presentation by **Leslie Thomas**

The well-known novelist describes some of his journeys to islands throughout the world – the subject of his latest travel book – and tells how such adventures also help him in the writing of fiction.



Leslie Thomas

Leslie Thomas is one of Britain's best selling authors. The total sales of his books published in this country alone has reached ten million copies.

He was born in Wales in 1931 and when his parents died some 12 years later, he and his younger brother went to Dr Barbardo's Homes – an experience beautifully evoked in his first book **This Time**

Next Week (1964). After a job with a local newspaper in Essex, Leslie Thomas started National Service in the army in 1949: his military experiences formed the basis of his first novel **The Virgin Soldiers** which has been an immense success world-wide. The book was also made into a highly popular film by Carl Foreman with Lynn Redgrave, Hywel Bennett and Nigel Davenport taking the starring roles.

Some of his other novels also became best-sellers: **Tropic of Ruislip**, **Ormerod's Landing**, **Onward Virgin Soldiers** and **Stand Up Virgin Soldiers** – all of which are still available as Pan paperbacks.

Since 1966 when his first books began to appear, Leslie Thomas has published 15 novels and four non-fiction books. His latest novel is published by Methuen this autumn and is titled **The Dearest and the Best**. The author's love of travel and of islands is reflected in his magnificent new non-fiction book **A World of Islands** (Rainbird) which is the theme of Leslie Thomas's presentation at this year's Kent Literature Festival.

EVENT 20
Saturday 7.30 pm
£2.00
Gallery

In conjunction with the National Book League we present the Festival Forum: "IS THE BOOK REALLY DYING?"

– A chance to hear what members of the book fraternity think about the future of the book, and an opportunity for members of the audience to air their views and opinions.

"The book is under threat from video and television" – "New technology will witness the end of print-based culture" – "The literary novel is dead, long live soap opera" . . .

These are the kinds of remarks the book world has had thrust in its face for the past five years or so. Despite a temporary drop in publishing output towards the end of the 1970's and beginning of the '80's, there is evidence that Britain's publishing industry will, within the next year or two, be surpassing a figure of 50,000 books a year.

Then again, perhaps we are being too optimistic. Maybe there are great, unresolved problems facing the book, as the unstoppable power and influence of the computer, video and cable television begin to have effect.

Offering their personal views will be author **Marghanita Laski** and publisher **Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson** who will be looking to the audience for comments and opinions to make this a lively debate.

In the chair, **Martyn Goff**, Director of the National Book League, who will also present his wide experience of the book trade.



Marghanita Laski
(Photo: RadioTimes)

Marghanita Laski's writing career has spanned nearly 40 years and has covered nearly every aspect of literature – novel writing; editing; writing for

Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson is one of Britain's most respected publishers having been at Hamish Hamilton for 22 years, first as an editor, then as editorial director and, for the last 10 years, as Managing Director. His wide experience as a publisher is complemented by his own writing career and his works include **In Glorious Rebellion** about the Jacobite risings; **Blood Royal** about the first four Georges; and some books of regimental and military history.

Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson
(Photo: Tara Heinemann)

television and radio; biography, drama and children's books. Some of her more recent books include **Jane Austen and Her World** and **George Eliot and Her World** (both published by Thames and Hudson); **Kipling's English History** (BBC Publications); **Everyday Ecstasy** (Thames and Hudson) and earlier this year she published a children's book **Ferry the Jerusalem Cat** (Deutsch). She has been a frequent contributor to radio programmes such as 'Any Questions', 'Critics' Forum' and the series 'Kipling's English Empire'. Marghanita Laski is Chairman of the Arts Council's Literature Advisory Panel.



EVENT 21
Full day (10.45 am – 4.00 pm) Saturday
Admission to all illustrators' events:
adults £1.50, children £1.00.
All events in the Autumn
Room/Common Room/Painting
Studio

FAMILY DAY – ILLUSTRATORS GALORE!!!!

(N.B. There are separate admission fees for Events 22 and 23)

– A full day of talks, demonstrations and drawing sessions by some of Britain's leading illustrators/writers of children's books. Bring the whole family to meet . . .

Shirley Hughes, Simon Stern, Val Biro, Audrey Vincente Dean, Ross Thomson, Raymond Briggs.



Shirley Hughes' illustration of Shirley Hughes at the Kent Literature Festival!!

SHIRLEY HUGHES demonstrates her art: Shirley Hughes was born near Liverpool and trained at Liverpool Arts School and at the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford. She began to write and design picture books when her own three children were very young. She has illustrated over 200 books for children of all ages and many of these are now well-known and loved in this country and Australia, Japan, the USA and Europe. **Helpers** won the Children's Rights Workshop 'Other Award' in 1976. **Dogger**

won the Kate Greenaway Medal, the highest UK award for illustration, in 1978. It also won a Silver Slate Pencil Award in Holland in 1980. The strength of her illustrative style is in a distinctive characterisation of people, especially children. She loves that area of reality which

can take off into fantasy, preferably the hilarious kind. But her books for young children are firmly rooted in the everyday events and dramas of family life, told in detailed pictures with which the reader can strongly and warmly identify.

★ 1.15 pm

A signing session with **RAYMOND BRIGGS** - Bring your copy of a Raymond Briggs book and have it personally signed by the author!

Raymond Briggs has, over the past few years, not only illustrated other peoples' words but has created his own stories which he then illustrates. **Father Christmas** and **Father Christmas Goes on Holiday** showed a bad-tempered Santa ("Blooming Christmas here again!") whilst **The Snowman** was readily seen as a modern classic which was made into an animated film to accompany Steven Spielberg's film **E.T.** Raymond Briggs has also written and illustrated **Fungus the Bogeyman** and **Gentleman Jim**. **When the Wind Blows** was published by Hamish Hamilton in 1982 and has become yet another modern classic. The story, drawn as comic strip, tells of an elderly couple facing the nuclear holocaust and how they meet their end. The BBC has created a very moving radio play from the book and a stage version was produced in London in April. **When the Wind Blows** won the creative section of South East Arts Book Awards for 1982. Raymond Briggs lives in East Sussex and all the books are available in Puffin paperbacks.



Illustration from Raymond Briggs' book **When the Wind Blows** (Penguin)

★ 2.45 pm

VAL BIRO talks about and demonstrates his work as an illustrator.

Val Biro is the author/illustrator of the famous 'Gumdrop' books, of which there are 14 in the hardback series and 8 **Little Gumdrop Books**. He has also written **Hungarian Folk Tales**; **The Magic Doctor** and retold the **Fables of Aesop**. He also illustrates many other books, notably those by H.E. Todd. His work has often appeared on TV, on video and on tapes. Val will also be bringing his vintage motor car 'Gumdrop'.



Mr Oldcastle and his dog Horace. Illustration by Val Biro.



Audrey Vincente Dean and her puppet friends

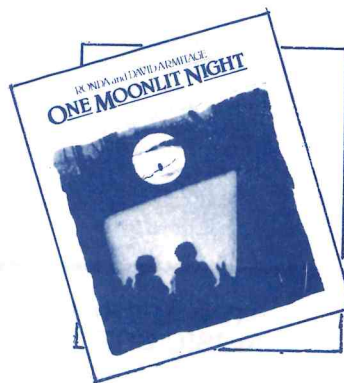
★ Also present throughout the day will be **Audrey Vincente Dean** who is author of **Puppets That Are Different** and **Wooden Spoon Marionettes**. She will show some of her own puppets and suggest ways of making your own versions from scrap material.

★ Illustrator **Simon Stern** will be helping children to create a huge painted monster which will crawl along the floor and out the door! He'll also be organising a "monster gallery" - there will be plenty of painting and drawing materials to use, just make sure you wear old clothes!

★ Another illustrator (whose self portrait we present here as a gift to posterity!) **Ross Thomson** will be joining Illustrators Galore for the whole day. Ross is a popular cartoonist/illustrator whose books include **A Noisy Book** (Abelard); **Smith's Tail** and **Smith Takes a Bath** (Evans) and **Moving, Doing & Being** (Anderson). He is now working on a new children's TV series.



★ Ronda and David Armitage will also be joining us for 'Illustrators Galore'. This husband and wife writer/illustrator team has produced several very popular story books for children including **The Bossing Josie**, **Don't Forget Matilda**, **Ice Creams for Rosie**, **The Lighthouse-Keeper's Lunch** and their most recent book **One Moonlit Night**, all published by Andre Deutsch.



The cover of Ronda & David Armitage's new book.

★ **Much more besides . . .** Throughout family day there will be animated films of children's books and films about children's writers; a fully stocked children's bookshop supplied by **ESOS Education Services** whose representatives **Sheila Heywood** and **Esther Munns** will be on hand to offer advice to anyone buying children's books; there will

be tons of painting and drawing materials; fun and games; videos; poetry in quiet corners; music from **Jim Wood** our wandering busker; and one of last year's favourites **Rhubarb the Clown** will be turning up in the oddest places to entertain children and adults with his tricks, humour and stunts on his unicycle!!! Don't forget to do some autograph hunting!



Children's Book Swap

If you have a paperback book which you have finished reading and it's still in good condition, maybe you'd like to swap it for another you haven't yet read. If so, bring it along to the Festival and wear a colourful notice on your back saying something like: I'M FRIENDLY - STOP ME AND WE'LL SWAP BOOKS!



Children's Fancy Dress

Come to the Festival Family Day on Saturday dressed as a character from a book and you could win a book token! You could, for instance, dress up as Alice in Wonderland, a Hobbit, Winnie the Pooh, a Jungle Book character, Captain Pugwash or Long John Silver, a Womble or a Wild Thing, Meg (the witch from the Meg & Mog books), Heidi, Peter Pan or Wendy, a Grange Hill character, Willy Wonka from the Chocolate Factory, an Asterix character or what about dressing up as a character from the Star Wars books - or maybe even E.T.!!! (all you need is a long snout, big eyes and a phone!)

Anyway, these are just a few suggestions, you'll probably have your own ideas. Don't forget we'll be awarding book tokens to the best fancy dress and there's a strong chance that the Folkestone Herald newspaper photographers will be snapping people in costume more than anyone else, so you might even get famous!

Family Day is sponsored by TVS

EVENT 22

Saturday 11.45 am
Adults £1.25
Children £1.00
Summer Restaurant

TONI ARTHUR'S MUSIC BOX

An entertainment for all the family with songs old and new, dances, toys, games and traditional drama featuring Toni and her husband Dave.



Toni & Dave Arthur

Toni Arthur is well known to children through her appearances in many television programmes, most particularly for the last few years, as presenter of Thames TV's **Seeing and Doing**. She is also the co-presenter of **What Do You Watch?** and the adult education series **It's a Great Life**, both on BBC 1, as well as having been a regular for more than 7 years on **Playschool**, **Playaway** and **All-Star Record Breakers**. In 1981 her first book **All the Year Round** was published by Puffin Books.

Toni Arthur's Music Box is an entertainment designed to develop children's appreciation of music - particularly British folk music, and to extend their awareness of the folklore, customs and traditions which are part of their heritage. The emphasis is on education, through enjoyment and participation, and the show includes action and chorus songs accompanied by unusual instruments such as the melodeon, concertina, plucked dulcimer, zither harp, bones and bodhran; a mumming play (with audience participation); a hobby horse; broom dancing, clog dancing, even a dancing puppet. A marvellous show for family audiences.

EVENT 23

Saturday 2.30 pm
Adults £1.25
Children £1.00
Summer Restaurant

TONI ARTHUR'S MUSIC BOX

- the second performance of the day from television personality Toni Arthur who will be entertaining a family audience with songs, dances, customs, musical instruments and verses.

Come with your singing voice in good shape and your toes ready for tapping!



FREE HELP AND ADVICE FOR NEW AND ASPIRING AUTHORS

Throughout Festival Saturday a unique new concept for adult writers, VERSEWAGON, will be parked at the Arts Centre offering a free service to people attending the Festival.

Versewagon is a mobile Writing Workshop which attracts support from local writers, aspiring poets and secret scribblers and helps them by giving advice and offering constructive criticism on their work.

Versewagon has three highly experienced writers **Ian McMillan**, who has taught many creative writing workshops; **Martin Wiley**, a poet who has performed at many festivals and **John Turner** who has edited magazines and written for radio as well as organising writers' workshops.

So if you are visiting the Festival at any time during the Saturday, bring a pen and paper, some manuscripts if you are a writer and call in on Versewagon for a coffee and a chat about your work. Even if you don't write, visit the van and show Versewagon some Kentish hospitality!

Kent Literature Festival . . Notes

Festival Organiser: **John Rice**
South East Arts, 9-10 Crescent Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent. (Tel: 41666)

Assisted by **Gavin Trevelyan** (Dover A.E.C.), **John Wilson** (Gravesham A.E.C.) and **Ann Fearey** (Arts Centre, Folkestone).
Festival Secretary, Patricia McCarthy.

- ★ The organisers would like to thank **Conrad Wilson**, Principal of Shepway A.E.C., **John Eveleigh**, Deputy Principal, **Lois Reynolds** and **Michael Foad** as well as all the other staff and volunteers at both Earlscliffe and the Arts Centre for their help and enthusiasm in mounting this year's Festival.
- ★ Certain talks and lectures in this year's Festival will be recorded by **Jonathan Vickers** of the British Institute of Recorded Sound.
- ★ Folkestone is now served by the M20 motorway. There is ample car and coach parking space at the Arts Centre. Please park on The Leas overlooking the Channel and with views of France (on clear days anyway!).
- ★ For full tourist information about Folkestone and a hotels' register, please contact the **Recreation and Amenities Department, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent** (tel: 57388). The Arts Centre is within minutes of a great variety of good hotels and the Festival is part of a special package holiday organised by Shepway District Council.
- ★ The Kent Literature Festival is a member of the **Literature Festivals Council** which seeks to promote literary festivals which take place throughout the country during any given year. The next literature festival to take place in England will be Newcastle Literary Festival which runs from 21-30 October. Contact **Pam Jarvis, c/o Arts Marketing, 10 Osborne Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne** (0632) 817701; followed by the **Birmingham Readers' and Writers' Festival** (9-20 November). A brochure giving details of all literary festivals in England is available from **Pamela Clunies-Ross, Literature Festivals Council, 21 Earls Court Square, London SW5** (01-370 6929).
- ★ The Organisers reserve the right to alter the programme should adverse circumstances arise.
- ★ No responsibility can be accepted for any loss or damage to personal property or for any injury sustained.

Other events etc.

- ★ Adult education centres throughout Kent will be mounting short lead-up courses on contemporary writing with an emphasis on the

