



**Society
of
Medical Writers**
Annual Autumn Symposium 2017:



"Doctoring History"

Telling home truths through Fiction and Rhyme in the age of news that's fake.

At the:

Prince Rupert Hotel

Butcher Row,
Shrewsbury SY1 1UQ
Tel: 01743 499955
Fax: 01743 357306

E-mail: post@prince-rupert-hotel.co.uk
www.prince-rupert-hotel.co.uk



Guest Speakers:

Professor Bernard Knight CBE

Emeritus Professor of Forensic Pathology, University of Wales College of Medicine, Home Office Pathologist 1965-96, author of the *Crowner John Mysteries* and erstwhile scriptwriter of *The Expert*.

He qualified in Cardiff in 1954. After house-jobs he became SHO in pathology then went on National service as medical officer during the Malaya emergency. After discharge he completed forensic pathology training in London and Newcastle and returned to Cardiff in 1968, as senior lecturer, rising to reader and eventually professor in 1980. Over his long Home Office career he performed over 25,000 autopsies including victims of notorious villains such as Fred and Rose West, and child-killer Mary Bell. He published his first novel in 1963, to which he has since added numerous novels and authoritative non-fiction works.

Dr Andrew Pattison

Retired GP formerly practising in Shrewsbury from 1977-2003, specialising in treating substance-misuse while also working for the church. After retirement he fell into Local History, writing a book on the history of the building where his Church meets. Later he wrote *The Darwins of Shrewsbury*, and embarked on an MPhil degree, on the subject of local ironmaster William Hazledine, which has since been published. He won a Benjamin Baker medal from the Institute of Civil Engineers for an article on Hazledine in their journal. He writes for the Shrewsbury Chronicle, and edits the magazine of the Shropshire Archives.

Andre Fusek Peters

Shropshire poet and nature writer, author of *Dip, Upland and Wilderland*, latterly wildlife photographer *par excellence* – in the last year, his photos have been published in every national newspaper. Following his spectacularly successful talk at Ironbridge our old friend is back by popular request.

Sally Tonge

Shropshire professional story-teller, musician and community artist. She has been working in educational, health and community settings for over 20 years. She is currently Storyteller in Residence in 2 special schools in the West Midlands as well as a former Musician in Residence for Early Years settings throughout Shropshire. She has worked with the cabaret show *Three Men in a Bow Tie* for over 5 years and is currently touring *Sheep Tales* to village halls nationally. She has acted in Lovelee productions of *Silhouette*, *Shakespeare's Will* and *Ursula: Queen of the Jungle*. She sings and plays guitar as one half of duo *Daylevel* and is a regular artist for *Music in Hospitals*. She is a mother to 2 teenage sons and for sanity's sake, she likes to run, can keep a hula hoop spinning for 20 minutes and makes fabulous marmalade.

Programme:

Friday 6th October:

3.00 pm: Meet and greet. There is the option of a group activity in the afternoon, around Shrewsbury, if enough people are interested. See Booking form and vote for preference.

7.00 pm: Buffet Dinner.

7.45 pm: Welcome and housekeeping – Dr Julian Randall, MC

8.00 pm: Dr Andrew Pattison: “Simply a Blank”

Charles Darwin barely mentioned any influence of his illustrious grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, nor his father, Shrewsbury GP Robert Darwin, on his theory of evolution. He described his days at Shrewsbury School as “simply a blank”, suggesting that his time there had no influence on his life and work. Dr Pattison has made a detailed study of Darwin’s family and background, which sheds some interesting new light on the early development of the famous naturalist.

Saturday 7th October:

9.00 am: Registration tea, coffee and biscuits

9.15 am: Morning greeting

9.30 am: Andrew Fusek Peters: Inspirational photography and poetry to get everyone in a creative mood

10.30 am: Coffee etc.

10.45 am: Dr Dorothy Crowther and Dr Charmian Goldwyn: *The Charity Worker’s Eye*;

The SOMW’s very own intrepid champions of war victims and refugees talk about bearing witness to real-world problems the media ignore.

11.30 am: Workshop 1: An Exercise in Allegory: *The Writer* is a hungry creature (!metaphor alert), so get writing and feed the beast.

1.00 pm: Buffet Lunch

2.00 pm: Professor Bernard Knight CBE:

“MURDER, HE WROTE”

Long ago, before *CSI*’s started popping up everywhere, long before Amanda Burton ever graced the mortuary of *Silent Witness*, before the delectable Emily Deschanel became “*Bones*” Brennan, or ugly-mug Jack Klugman was the pugnacious *Quincy*, the Forensic Scientist genre was already there on the telly. Back in 1968, when even the venerable David McCallum was still Illya Kuryakin of *U.N.C.L.E.*, not “Ducky” Mallard of *NCIS*, there was Marius Goring as *The Expert*, alias Professor John Hardy.

But who was Professor Hardy? Every Cardiff medical student knew the answer to that.

He was Bernard Knight.

Since his scriptwriting days, Professor Knight has written, co-authored or edited some 50 novels and 13 textbooks, including *Historical Fiction Writing: A Practical Guide and Tool Kit*, so sit back and learn from *The Expert*.

3.00 pm: Afternoon tea

3.15 pm: Workshop 2: “I Need a Hero”; Fiction writing: create your own charismatic character.

4.30pm: AGM

5.30 pm: Close

7.00 for 7.30 pm: Conference dinner, followed by traditional SOMW home-grown entertainment. Bring your musical instruments, poems and prose.

Sunday 8th October:

9.15 am: Gather for tea coffee and biscuits.

9.30 am: Competition results, presentation of awards and readings.

10.30 am: Coffee/biscuits etc.

10.45 am: Sally Tonge: Workshop 3: *Uplifting Stories and how to tell them*:

Visit your wells of memory, tittle tattle and twaddle as source material for new stories to tell... and maybe write. We shall play a few games and try out ideas. Nobody has to solo!!! (But try stopping the SOMW’s “usual suspects”.)

12.45 pm: Valedictions

1.00 pm: Buffet Lunch

2.00 pm: Depart

Conference Fees:

Includes all meals teas and coffees as listed and conference dinner. Non-members who join before or during the conference will have price difference deducted from first annual membership fee)

Whole conference: Members £150; Non-members £165 Spouses/partners: £90

Saturday only: Members £95; Non-members £110

Conference Dinner only: £35-00

Students: Please apply to Julian Randall (see below) for concessionary rates.

Accommodation:

The Hotel has reserved 12 single and 4 double rooms for delegates, so you are advised to book early

(NB: Delegates must book their own accommodation; it is not included in the conference fee.)

Rates: Single room: Friday £75-00 Saturday £85-00

Double room: Friday £115-00 Saturday £125-00

Contact:

Diane Matthews,

Director, Prince Rupert Hotel,

Butcher Row,

SHREWSBURY SY1 1UQ

Tel 01743-499955 or e-mail post@princeruprthotel.co.uk

Alternative accommodation:

The Lion Hotel is close by, in Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury.

Tel: 01743-353107 or e-mail enquiry@thelionhotelshrewsbury.com

Directions

By Car: Via M6, exit at junction 10a onto the M54 towards Shrewsbury. Follow the M54 until it becomes the A5. Follow the A5, then the A49 following the signs for the town centre. Cross the English Bridge and bear right up Wyle Cop. Continue for a short distance and turn right after the post box into Fish Street. Continue for a further 150 metres until the hotel entrance is visible.

Car Parking at Prince Rupert Hotel: The hotel is in a pedestrianised street which can only be entered for access, so it has off-site valet parking ONLY. There is a surcharge of £7-50 for 2 nights.

Alternatives: You are advised to come by train or coach if possible. There is a pleasant half-mile walk from the rail and coach stations to the hotel, but you may need a taxi to the hotel as the town centre is up a substantial hill.

Birmingham and Manchester airports are 50 miles away to east and north, but have rail stations on direct routes to Shrewsbury.

Booking Form

Please return, with cheque payable to The Society of Medical Writers, to:

Dr J Randall,
Acre-Rise Cottage,
Upper Ludstone,
Claverley,
SHROPSHIRE WV5 7DH

BACS payments:
Society of Medical Writers,
Sort Code: 20-45-45,
Account Number: 83304337
Ref: SOMW/Shrewsbury

(For enquiries, tel. 01746-710634 or e-mail acrerise01@gmail.com)

Tick as required:

Whole conference		Saturday Only	
Conference dinner only		Accompanying Guest/Spouse/Partner?	
Optional Activities Friday afternoon: (Vote for preference)	Guided themed walk:	Darwin	
		Cadfael	
	"Sabrina" boat cruise on the River Severn:		

NB: Shrewsbury is hilly. Only sign up for the walk if able-bodied.

For details see <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/guided-tours-of-shrewsbury>

Delegate details (Please write clearly):

Name:

Address:

Telephone number(s):

E-mail address:

Special Dietary requirements?

Diabetic	
Gluten free	
Other	

Specify: _____