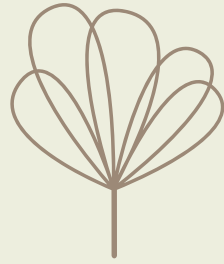


ADULT LEARNING WALES AT
HAY FESTIVAL 2022 REPORT



HAY
FESTIVAL
EDUCATION





Learners and teachers watching an event



Interacting with a puppet from *His Dark Materials*

ADULT LEARNING WALES

Hay Festival Day 2022

Adult Learning Wales worked with Hay Festival to bring adult learners, some with their families, on Monday 30 May 2022 to experience Hay Festival. We worked collaboratively to remove as many barriers as possible to ensure the participants attending the Festival had an enriching experience and to engage them directly with literature and the arts.

PARTICIPANTS

A total of 17 adult learners and 11 children attended the ALW Hay Festival Day. It was great to welcome the group which was culturally diverse with a wide range of ages, including infants, children, young adults and adults – all with varying levels of English language.

Each participant, even the youngest infant, received a Hay Festival book token to spend in the huge Hay Festival bookshop, and each participant also received a complimentary ticket to attend an event later during the Festival. At the end of the day each participant and staff member received a certificate to remember the day and to thank them for being such great guests.

PLANNING

The full programme was made available well in advance of the Festival for learners and their families to select events. Packs were sent out for each learner and member of staff in advance, including the programme for the day, menu, Hay Festival programme and site map to prepare participants for the day. A short film and photographs were also provided in advance to give participants a flavour of what to expect on the day.





Bad Wolf event about *His Dark Materials*



Make & Take Tent – Crafting Space

STAFFING

The day was staffed by Aine Venables and Georgia Winstone, one of the Hay Festival interns with a particular interest in widening participation. Michelle Kershaw and Beth Johns initiated the project and coordinated the planning in advance and Siriol McAvoy coordinated the travel and the group on the day. Six teachers from Adult Learning Wales attended with students and families to accompany them to events on the day.

TRAVEL

The coach company bringing the groups were sent specific parking instructions and free parking at a dedicated car park. Teachers travelling by car were given free Hay Festival parking and a Hay Festival driver brought a teacher and learner from, and back to, Hereford station on the day.

ACCOMMODATION

The Summerhouse, an airy comfortable space, was available throughout the day (10.30am–5pm) as a base for everyone. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea were served there throughout the day. All food served was vegetarian and Halal. There were craft materials available for children to use in the Summerhouse and participants were able to leave bags safely in the space when attending events.

MAKE & TAKE

Places were booked for the Make & Take crafting venue all day so families could attend together in creative workshops at any point in the day. This creative space has a strong focus on family learning, and families found it relaxing and engaging.

PROGRAMMING & PARTICIPATION

Learners were given the opportunity to browse the programme well before the day, and places for individual events were booked in advance. The stewards were made aware of ALW participants and made every effort to save good seats near the front of the venue but at the end of a row so families could leave if necessary, for example Marshall Ni, who is neurodivergent, and his mother Meihong Ni.

Most of the participants attended Onjali Q Raúf's family event. Onjali is an author and activist. She writes about issues such as empathy, refugees and homelessness. Onjali came to the Summerhouse after her event to do a dedicated book signing. Each family received a signed book of their choice written by Onjali as a gift from Hay Festival. Onjali connected very personally with the group. She, like many of the participants, grew up in Swansea, and Hay Festival was hugely influential for her as a child. Onjali also discovered family connections with Kafiluddin & Rehan Chowdhury, who have family in Bangladesh – this made the world feel like a small place indeed.

Again, most participants attended the Bad Wolf event, which featured some of the cast and puppeteers from the televised adaptation of Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy. The puppeteers brought the puppets to the Summerhouse to interact with the group after the event, and this was hugely engaging for children and adults alike.

Moji Olateju was particularly inspired by the event she attended with author Alex Renton about his book *Blood Legacy*. Moji was able to meet Alex in the Green Room after the event. He signed her book (bought with the Hay Festival book token) and she had a meaningful conversation with him about slavery.

ALW PROGRAMME

Monday 30 May 2022

10.30am–11.30am

Meet Hay Festival staff at the Summerhouse
Refreshments
Orientation and outline of the day
Distribution of Hay Festival Bookshop book tokens

11.30am–12.30pm

Adult events

Event I29 Baillie Gifford Stage
James Runcie with Irène Duval
The Great Passion

Event I30 Festival Friends Stage
Giles Foden
Freight Dogs

Event I31 Cube
Mark Lee
Social Computers and Conversational Robots

Event I32 Marquee
BBC Radio Wales *The Arts Show*

Children's events

Event HD18 Llwyfan Cymru – Wales Stage
Onjali Q Raúf
Hope on the Horizon (9+ years)

Event HD19 Starlight Stage
Laura Dockrill
Punk Rocker Poodle (3+ years)

11.30am–12.30pm

Family drop in activity (0–11 yrs)
Event MT5 Make & Take Tent
Crafting session

12.30pm–1pm Summerhouse Lunch

1pm–2pm

Adult events

Event I33 Festival Friends Stage
Danny Dorling, Jukka Siukosaari
& Katja Pantjar
Finntopia: Why is Finland so Happy?

Event I34 Llwyfan Cymru – Wales Stage
Michael Ward
Lunchtime Lecture: *CoronaDiaries*

Event I35 Marquee
BBC Radio Wales *Tonight at Hay*

Children's events

Event HD21 Starlight Stage
Beano Boomics: Is it a Book? No. Is it a
Comic? No – It's a Boomic! (6+years)

Event HD22 Cube
Nicola Davies
The Song That Sings Us (12+years)

Event HD20 Baillie Gifford Stage
His Dark Materials Live (Family)

1.30pm–4pm

Family drop in activity (0–11 yrs)
Event MT6 Make & Take Tent
Crafting session

2pm–2.30pm Summerhouse
Remaining lunch still available

2.30pm–3.30pm

Adult events

Event I37 Baillie Gifford Stage
Serhii Plokhy, Oliver Bullough and Catherine
Belton talk to Philippe Sands
*Imagine... Democracy: War – Ukraine, Russia
and Belarus*

Event I38 Festival Friends Stage
Alex Renton talks to Hugh Muir
Blood Legacy

Event I39 Llwyfan Cymru – Wales Stage
Patrick Gale talks to Stephanie Merritt
Mother's Boy

Event I40 Marquee
Gabriel Gatehouse
BBC Radio 4: *The Coming Storm*

Children's events

Event HD23 Starlight Stage
Ben Okri
Every Leaf a Hallelujah (7+years)

Event HD24 Cube
Jenny Valentine
Planet Joy (9+years)

3.45pm–4pm Summerhouse
Refreshments, meet the authors, book signings

4pm–4.45pm Free time to browse the
bookshop and explore the site

4.45pm Summerhouse Meet & say goodbyes

5pm Return travel – coach waiting at main
entrance by 5.15pm



Quiet space in Make & Take Tent



Interacting with a puppet from *His Dark Materials*

MENU

BREAKFAST

10.30am–11.30am

Croissants, pastries, bowls of fruit
Tea, coffee, juice, water

LUNCH

12.20pm–1pm

Leek and cheddar tart
Mushroom duxelles
Sundried tomato and bocconcini tartlet
Mini bruschetta
Panko cheese with chutney
Dim sum
Rennet-free cheese margarita
wood fired pizzas for children

Desserts

Raspberry and lime cheesecake bites
Mini Pavlova
Chocolate truffle cakes
Cold drinks & water

SNACKS

2pm–2.30pm

Remaining lunch available in
the Summerhouse

AFTERNOON TEA

3.45pm–4.30pm

Victoria sponge cake
Tiny jam and cream scones
Tea, coffee, cold drinks & water



Family at the ALW Hay Festival Day



Onjali Q Raúf signing books for the Adult Learners and their families



Nonplussed by the giant polar bear puppet from *His Dark Materials*



The golden monkey puppet from *His Dark Materials*



Learner and teacher



Onjali Q Rauf

FEEDBACK

from learners

"I am inspired by Onjali and I have hope."

Maggie

"I enjoy being with all the people."

Saiqa

"The endless narrative of slavery has really pricked my heart."

Moji

"I listened to the stories. My daughter enjoyed to make the craft."

Nazife

"Marshall's highlight was the food!"

Mei (Marshall is 7)

"I think this is a great place for a visit. We really enjoyed lots of activities and books!"

Kafil

"It was really good and I really loved the BBC and the Welsh artists."

Zak

"The place is so beautiful."

Mei

REFLECTIONS

Inside the Make & Take Tent was a very enabling space for families to settle in. They were visibly more relaxed having had this experience together. Visiting this space earlier in the day, to introduce families to this family learning environment, is recommended.

Although events had been chosen in advance, participants and teachers were not clear which events they were on the list to attend. In future, Hay Festival could programme the day, making other events available for those who have something different in mind. It would be good to know in advance the teacher working with each learner and their family.

It was important to programme an author event that was stimulating for each person to see at the festival but also to punctuate the day with experiences that impacted on the whole group, such as the visit from Onjali Q Raúf, who spoke to everyone in the room, and the *His Dark Materials* puppets, who interacted with and entertained young and old alike. This gave the day cohesion and a sense of collective memory.

There really was something for everyone on the programme – this fostered a strong sense of inclusion in the arts and engaged families and individual learners with the power of stories.

Each participant left with a book of their choice, a signed copy of a book by Onjali Q Raúf and a free ticket to return to Hay Festival again.

At the end of the day each participant and staff member received a certificate to remember the day and to thank them for being such great Hay Festival guests. We hope to work with Adult Learning Wales in future to welcome adult learners and their families living in Wales to enjoy the Hay Festival experience.



CERTIFICATE FOR BEING A GREAT GUEST

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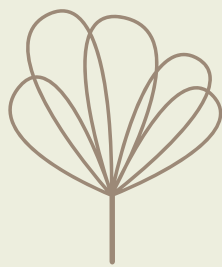


MONDAY 30 MAY 2022

Thank you for coming to **HAY FESTIVAL**.
It has been a very special day and we
hope you will come again.

CONGRATULATIONS on being such a great guest!

With best wishes from the **HAY FESTIVAL TEAM**



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