

# Writing the Wrongs

## PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT



*'Hard times are coming, when we'll be wanting the voices of writers who can see alternatives to how we live now...and even imagine real grounds for hope'*

**Ursula K Le Guin**

## WRITING THE WRONGS

In October 2022, Crave Arts and The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham delivered a day-long creative writing course at Worcester Cathedral. The aim was to create an opportunity for people to reflect on our turbulent times and to find hope and reconciliation through writing.



## THE VENUE

Worcester Cathedral was the imposing yet peaceful setting for the day; a place of historical conflict, resolution, faith and hope, this made an ideal setting for a day of creative reflection.

Participants received a guided tour of the Cathedral to aid their thought processes.



## ARTISTS AND TEAM

Paul Milton, Director of The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham and Steve Wilson, Director of Crave Arts, planned and facilitated the day. They read poems and prose extracts concerning sorrow and hope to inspire, and advised writers during their writing exercises. They were accompanied by Nataliya Kudelina from Ukraine, currently working at The Everyman. Jo Wilson of Worcester Cathedral led the tour.



## PARTICIPANTS

11 participants booked and 10 attended on the day. The event was promoted through both organisations' social media and websites, and in the Worcester News. 4 had seen the day advertised through Crave Arts Facebook, 4 through The Everyman's website and 1 through the Everyman's Instagram. 1 had been told about the event by a friend.



## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Participants enjoyed the opportunity to write and connect with others, saying they most enjoyed....

- *'Sharing work and ideas'*
- *'Listening to other people's views and how we can take these emotions into our work'*
- *'Lovely group of people, sharing our ideas'*
- *'Meeting with other writers at all stages of their writing from all different backgrounds has been wonderful'*
- *'Meeting with like-minded people'.*

They responded well to the facilitators and the activities, appreciating....

- *'The joint leadership between Steve and Paul'*
- *'Interaction of the group and leadership'*
- *'Relaxed approach and inclusive'*
- *'Very comfortable - enjoyable activities/discussions, no pressure!'*

They also found the setting inspiring, enjoying:

- *'Seeing the Cathedral and writing in a beautiful setting'*
- *'The tour was great for inspiration. Really enjoyed writing to a theme'*
- *'Having such a fantastic space to write'.*

## SKILLS LEARNED

Participants said they learned new skills:

- *'Writing something in an hour'*
- *'Having the confidence to read new writing to people who aren't my friends'*
- *'Learned to use a setting as inspiration'*
- *'The word game with prompts was new to me'*
- *'How to direct my writing'*
- *'The thinking process and need for open mindedness'*



## VIEWS ON THE WHOLE DAY

On a scale of 0-5, all aspects of the day received scores of 4 or 5 for writing advice and support; tour; venue; price; and booking process. 3 people scored a slightly lower 3 out of 5 for the catering, while the rest gave 4 or 5.

4 participants suggested improvements:

- *'Desks to write on in the room'*
- *'More than one game, if there's time'*
- *'More coffee; food and tea in the room'*
- *'Only a minor thing - hot water so I could make a herbal tea'*

Overall views:

- *'This has been fantastic, inspiring and motivating - thank you!'*
- *'I would like to attend other workshops with specific themes'*
- *'Thoroughly enjoyed it'*
- *'Such a great opportunity, hope there are more courses like this'*
- *'Let's have another one please!'*



## REFLECTIONS

Reflecting on the day, Paul Milton said there was

*'An impressive variety of writing including poetry, prose and dramatic script, all of them informed by the morning's debates and cathedral tour. A really satisfying partnership project by Crave Arts and the Cheltenham Everyman'*

Steve Wilson said

*'It was great to have a range of ages taking part. It really helped us discuss difficult subject matters with honesty and compassion. I was really impressed by the quality of the work and I felt Paul and I complemented each other well. The tour was great as well, informative and friendly'.*



## LEARNING AND LEGACY

Crave Arts and The Everyman enjoyed the partnership and wish to explore more joint working opportunities.

Choosing an inspiring setting and theming the day were popular aspects to be repeated.

Providing time out of busy lives for creative reflection is a valuable endeavour and there is an appetite for more.