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Local Author Full of Thanks



Writing has always been at the forefront of my mind. While I travelled, I wrote blogs. When I was a child, I wrote books and I even wrote words under my picture books - the ideas were continuous.

I went to school in Bury St Edmunds and English was my favourite subject. This was mostly thanks to my wonderful teacher Mr Dean but also for my obsession with words

As I sit in a café or on the train my mind will wander to an idea for blog content or a fictional world of another

novel. A phrase will come to me while I am filling up my car and I just have to get it down. Even now, while writing this piece, thoughts are bouncing around my head with ideas for more articles. It is non-stop and I love it.

Dear Brannagh is my debut novel published back in November last year. The idea came about after a trip to Dublin. I was sitting upon an open top bus in the city centre when I saw a lady sitting on a set of steps. Her facial expression was like no other I've seen before and it could have portrayed the best news ever or the very worst. It struck me, along with the abortion campaigns everywhere and here we are with my first novel published.

So far it has been a huge success. I work at the village shop in Moulton, Suffolk and we have sold well over 300 copies in the stores alone. We have also been selling online on Amazon, Austin Macauley's website, WH Smiths and Waterstones. There are plenty of copies still available.

The feedback, the online reviews and the growing encouragement is something that I will never forget. The support behind my debut novel makes me grateful every single day.

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BURY ST EDMUNDS BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED!



lot on the heels of the Government road map out of lockdown the West Suffolk and

Borders branch of CAMRA

has unveiled ambitious plans for a 'comeback' Festival later this year.

By kind permission of the Dean & Chapter, the 29th East Anglian Beer & Cider Festival will take place in the Cathedral, Cloisters and Garth in Bury St Edmunds from Wednesday 25th August until Monday 30th August 2021 coinciding with the town's annual Food & Drink Festival and late summer Bank Holiday weekend.

In making the announcement Martin Bate, Beer Festival Organiser, said "we're so excited that St Edmundsbury Cathedral will be the home for our Festival this year. It's a fabulous venue and, we believe, holding a Beer Festival in a cathedral will be a first!"

The Revd Philip Banks, Canon Precentor at the Cathedral, commented "The Cathedral is a versatile space at the heart of the community, serving the people of Bury St Edmunds and the county of Suffolk. We are delighted to work in partnership with CAMRA to welcome visitors from near and far to the beautiful setting of the Cathedral for this unique new venture".

Proceeds from the Beer & Cider Fessive have, in the past, benefited many charities with over £100,000 donated This year, alongside the Cathedral other beneficiaries will include St Nicholas Hospice. Smaller local charities and worthwhile causes are also invited to apply for support.

Martin Bate went on to say "the Festival will continue the format so popular in 2019, using the Cathedral's indigrand outdoor spaces. We plan to offer and ale and craft beers, cider and a mis range of other drinks, festival food and entertainment, including a tribute bank night, and a family-focussed session We expect to showcase the best of British Brewing, with regional bas in the Cathedral Nave, and an East Anglan focus outside."

Mike Kirkham of 'Our Bury St Edmunds' enthusiastically commented "we're delighted that the CAMRA Festival coincides with our Food & Drink Festival With both Festivals being held in our historic and beautiful town centre they will cement Bury St Edmunds' position as one of the country's leading Food & Drink destinations*

All the latest Festival News. entertainment programme, opening hours, and how to help support the Festival and raise money for local charities and good causes, will be found, as further details are released, on the Festival website - www. burystedmundsbeerfestival.com

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