

## Item 7c – request to retain £700 of underspend

### From Pam Warhurst, Chair, Todmorden Book Festival Committee

Some of our events were rescheduled for Covid reasons and we do feel some schools were reticent to engage for the same reason.

Here's what we identified as Council supported projects.

We ran storytelling sessions in three primaries which went down well at a cost of £600 plus travel as artist came from Manchester so no overnight. We also ran two events for older young people involving almost 200 young adults. The cost of these was £500. In addition we have recruited a young person from the Asian Community to support the Oral History project which we funded mainly through Arts Council.

This was at a cost of £200.

Add into this a pro rata figure for other events, website, marketing, sound equipment and local venues at £1000.

Total spend from grant is £2300.

What we would like to do is take the remaining grant and hold a free children's event at Town Hall where we invite back the storyteller almost by popular demand and get as many Todmorden children as possible to spend a Saturday with us. We would hope to include a healthy packed lunch as well.

The storytellers name is Jan Blake and she really is an outstanding artist.

[.https://www.janblakestories.co.uk/](https://www.janblakestories.co.uk/)

As one of the leading storytellers, Jan Blake has been performing worldwide for over twenty-five years. Specialising in stories from Africa, the Caribbean, and Arabia, she has a well-earned reputation for dynamic and generous storytelling. Recent highlights include Hay Festival, where she was storyteller in-residence, the Viljandi Harvest Festival in Estonia and TEDx Warsaw.

As well as performing at all the major storytelling festivals both nationally and internationally, she works regularly with the British Council, leads storytelling workshops for emerging storytellers, and gives masterclasses for teachers, brands, and businesses. She also regularly captivates school children with mesmerising stories.

In 2011, she was the recipient of the biannual Thüringer Märchen Preis, awarded to scholars or performers who have devoted their lives to the service of storytelling. As part of the World Shakespeare Festival in 2012, she was the curator for Shakespeare's Stories, a landmark exhibition that explored themes of journey and identity, in conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

In 2013, The Old Woman, The Buffalo, and The Lion of Manding created and performed with musicians Kouame and Raymond Sereba toured to acclaim winning a British Awards for Storytelling Excellence (BASE).