

## **Weeping Bank**

### **What is “Weeping Bank”?**

Weeping Bank Library brings engaging performances of ghost stories, read by the author, to people through their local library. In the style of M.R.James, and enhanced by period props, low light, candles & subtle sound effects, these are intimate & unique experiences for both avid & reluctant readers.

The writing and reading of ghost stories began as something the author would share with his family at Christmas, but soon turned into a small performance at his local library and eventually expanding into yearly visits to a number of libraries in the south Staffs and Black Country area.

The concept of Weeping Bank Library as a repository of cautionary, chilling tales collected from the 'local' area soon developed with the author taking on the role of 'The Librarian' and remaining in character throughout the readings.

As readings became more frequent and audiences grew larger, it became clear that not only was there a demand for these intimate storytelling events, but that it drew a varied audience, young and old, male and female, couples, avid readers and even fans of classic horror films.

Weeping Bank Library is now on a mission to expand this simple concept to beyond Halloween and Christmas, to libraries beyond South Staffs and even online for all in the UK to enjoy. It will keep the promotion of reading at its heart, all the time bringing new, and lapsed, readers back into libraries for a unique experience.

### **Some terrific feedback ...**

"Wonderful storytelling!"

"That was wonderfully evocative. Great tales, with a genuinely chilling atmosphere."

"Another spellbinding performance of perfect ghost stories."

"It really captured the imagination and sent a chill down the spine."

"without doubt, the highlight of my Christmas. You have managed to capture perfectly the atmosphere of the great ghost story writers of yesteryear."

"It really was a superb, memorable evening."

"M R Jamesian in style but does a much better job at being both innovative and fresh than anyone else in the genre."

### **Library feedback**

One of the aims of this work is to reach people who do not visit libraries regularly – or who used to but have stopped. As Scott Whitehouse (Library Development Officer, Staffordshire Library and Arts Service, South Staffordshire and Cannock District) says:

“After several years booking Weeping Bank events at our libraries in Staffordshire we have noticed that the audience goes beyond our regular library users. We are seeing new faces every time, many lapsed borrowers

and even people who are new to libraries and may not have otherwise chosen to walk in and see the range of stock, activities and support we have available as part of the Library Offer.”

and Gee Cartmel (Events co-ordinator at The Hive Library in Worcester) said:

“Working with Robert and Alan to bring Weeping Bank to our library was a dream. They’re so dedicated and detail-oriented that everything was arranged well in advance, from tickets and timings right down to set dressing. The event itself was an incredible experience that had the entire audience enraptured right from the beginning. We can’t wait to welcome Weeping Bank back for some more tales.”

**... and someone who hadn’t been to a library for a while**

“I haven’t been to my local library since my children were at school (let’s just say that was a long time ago!). I enjoyed coming back so much and will make it my new year’s resolution to start visiting and borrowing books again. I’ll definitely be back if you bring another story too!” (Cannock Library, 2023)

**More about Weeping Bank**

Website: [www.weepingbank.com](http://www.weepingbank.com)

X (Twitter): [www.twitter.com/WeepingBank](https://www.twitter.com/WeepingBank)

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