

Norfolk children celebrate 400-year legacy of iconic Norwich figure

16/01/18

On Wednesday 17th January a new publication will be launched which brings together the poems and stories of young people from Norwich to celebrate the life of Thomas Anguish. The publication is a partnership between the Anguish Educational Foundation and Writers' Centre Norwich.

In 1617 Thomas Anguish, Mayor of Norwich, died leaving a pot of money for the education of the city's young people. He was frequently moved by the sight of poor children playing in Tombland from his residence, now part of the Maid's Head Hotel. Four hundred years later his legacy is still helping the children of Norwich.

David Fullman, Lord Mayor of Norwich, will join the celebrations on the 17th. He says:

“As the current Lord Mayor I am proud that the money left by Thomas Anguish is still making a difference to local people. It provides grants for school trips and special awards for people at college and university.”

With funding from the trust the pupils were able to go on schools trips, and on their return wrote stories and poems on the theme of travel and adventure during creative writing workshops organised by Writers' Centre Norwich. The nine participating schools were: Bignold Primary School, Catton Grove Primary School, Colman Junior School, Kinsale Junior School, Magdalen Gates Primary School, Sparhawk Infant School, The Parkside School, Queen's Hill Primary School and West Earlham Junior School

Heather Tyrrell, Trustee at Anguish's Educational Foundation says:

“We were very keen to involve children in a project that encouraged them to think independently and write freely. We are really grateful to all those pupils who shared their thoughts, ideas, stories and poems with us.”

Peggy Hughes, Programme Director at Writers’ Centre Norwich says:

“It has been a pleasure to share in the children’s experiences. We hope this is the first step for them on a longer writing journey, with many more adventures ahead.”

For details on how to obtain a copy of the anthology ‘Words and Ways’ please see:

www.anguisheducationalfoundation.org.uk

Samples of the children’s poems included in the anthology:

Wet sticky mud,
Loud, excited children,
Soft, chocolatey sweets,
Melt in my hand.
I cling tightly to the unsteady rope,
Confident and brave,
I am amazing

- Felix, Colman Junior School

Beautiful sounds fill the air,
Echoes of waves everywhere,
A good time it was that day,
Coral floating in the sea,
Happiness was all around.

Thorness bay is a lovely place,
In the day the birds sing,
Everyone enjoying themselves,
Sand beneath my feet

- Lily, Catton Grove Primary School

Notes to Editors:

1. About Writers' Centre Norwich (WCN)

WCN is a literature development organisation based in England's first UNESCO City of Literature. In summer 2018 WCN will become the National Centre for Writing. The National Centre for Writing at Dragon Hall will promote great literature, inspire communities through the power of writing, reading and literary translation, nurture literary talent and host world-class events.

www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk

2. For comment and photos contact Alice Kent, Communications Director at

alice.kent@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk / 01603 877177

3. About Anguish's Educational Foundation

It is one of the four registered charities in the Norwich Charitable Trust group. The charity makes grants to individuals and other charities for educational purposes. It is named after Thomas Anguish who lived between 1536 and 1617.