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Celebrating Alan Sillitoe

Nottingham groups have come together to organise a special day of events to celebrate the life and works of Nottingham writer and poet Alan Sillitoe which will take place on Saturday, 2nd October at the Council House in the Old Market Square.

The centrepiece of the celebrations will feature an exhibition and a programme of talks, readings, music and discussions on Alan's life and work.

This programme will include contributions by crime writer John Harvey, reflections by Alan's son David Sillitoe and the launch of the Alan Sillitoe short story competition with Nottingham writer Nicola Monaghan.

The official launch of the Alan Sillitoe Statue Fund will form part of the celebrations. The Statue Fund aims to raise money to provide a statue of Alan in Lenton Abbey, the location of Alan's birth in Manton Crescent.

A special beer to celebrate Alan Sillitoe is being brewed by Castle Rock Brewery and will give Nottingham people the chance to raise a glass in memory of Alan during these celebrations.

The event is being organised by Five Leaves, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire Libraries, Nottingham City Libraries, Bromley House Library, LeftLion, Nottingham Writers' Studio, The Bookcase in Lowdham, University of Nottingham School of Education, Nottingham Writers' Club, Writing East Midlands and Shoestring Press in co-operation with Alan's family.

Ross Bradshaw from Five Leaves says:

"Everyone involved in publishing or promoting literature in Nottingham have benefited one way or another from Alan's support or inspiration. This day is a great chance for groups to come together to celebrate that contribution."

David Sillitoe says: "It's excellent that Nottingham has come together to organise what will be a really special day. Many people will know about Alan through reading his novels, stories and poems, and there will be opportunities to discuss these on the day. But, probably for the first time, there will be a chance to learn more about Alan's life, including his interests (like maps and radio) and to see some of his personal photos and letters. Alan really loved Nottingham, and he regularly came back to visit. I know he would want to see as many people as possible coming along to have a great day in Nottingham!"

City Council Leader, Jon Collins says: "As an internationally acclaimed writer and poet, Alan Sillitoe is a man who Nottingham can be very proud of. He rose from humble beginnings to become an author known throughout the world but never forgot where he came from and the City which shaped so much of his work. We should never forget the contribution Alan has



made to Nottingham and that's why I'm so pleased the City has come together to organise this special day.

Details of the day's events are available at: www.sillitoe.com

Tickets for the Council House event are priced at £5.00 and are available in advance from The Bookcase on 0115 9663219

For further information contact Keri Usherwood, Marketing & Communications Manager, Nottingham City Council, on: (0115) 876 3326.

Note to editors:

Full programme details are available at www.sillitoe.com

For further details Contact Ross Bradshaw on 0115 9693597.

David Sillitoe is available for interview on 07770 336163