

CELEBRITIES Wish You Were Here

Comedian Dave Spikey is on holiday in Paris in 1775, actor Christopher Eccleston is in a pub in Christminster and poet Carol Ann Duffy is in front of Scrooge's grave.

Why? These celebrities and six others - all with Manchester links - have sent postcards from their favourite books as part of the **National Year of Reading** event.

Comedian Dave Spikey wrote from A Tale of two Cities by Charles Dickens
Actor Christopher Eccleston wrote from Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy
Poet Carol Ann Duffy wrote from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
Comedian Jenny Éclair wrote from Archy and Mehitabel by Don Marquis
Presenter Peter Purves wrote from The Illiad by Homer
Author Sherry Ashworth wrote from Bleak House by Charles Dickens
Author Ben Elton wrote from P G Wodehouse novels
Author Cath Staincliffe wrote from The Secret River by Kate Grenville
Presenter Simon Hickson wrote from The Shining by Stephen King

It is hoped that reading and writing groups, libraries, schools, colleges and bookshops will use the postcards to encourage reading and writing and inspire readers of all ages to download blank postcards to write their own.

The postcards and the ideas for using them originated from Creative Collective, a co-operative offering bespoke writing workshops to people of all ages founded by Rachel Broady and Francisca Kern.

The project was developed in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University and Manchester Libraries and is supported by Manchester Adult Education Services and Borders Bookshops.

A competition invites you to send a postcard from your favourite book and you could see your postcard in print as part of the series. You could also win £25 in book vouchers to spend at your local Borders store.

The postcards will be available all year with more celebrities to follow. Which children's television presenter enjoys books about a motorcycling-mouse? Can you guess where actors Maxine Peake and Sue Cleaver choose to escape to?

CONTACT: For further details and postcard packs, please contact Francisca Kern or Rachel Broady at enquiries@creativecollective.org.uk or on 0161 248 5493 or Libby Tempest at Manchester Library at L.Tempest@manchester.gov.uk or on 0161 234 1317 or Kaye Tew at Manchester Metropolitan University at k.tew@mmu.ac.uk or on 0161 247 1966.