



The Wellcome Trust Book Prize is launched at The Times Cheltenham Literature Festival 2008

Donna Renny: I'm Donna Renny, Chief Executive of Cheltenham Festivals. We have four festivals – jazz, science, music and literature, in that order. The book prize for us is really the culmination of quite a long partnership with the Wellcome Trust and we are absolutely delighted. We've had series running in the science festival and we've also had a series in the literature festival for a couple of years now. This year it's working really well – we've got some fantastic events about Jane Austen, Florence Nightingale under our banner, *Writers and Remedies*. So this really is the next stage for us – launching a major book prize, which I think within a few years will be up there with the Booker and the Orange prize.

Tony Woods: (giving a speech from the stage) It's almost 50 years since novelist and physicist C P Snow lamented the gulf between scientists and literary intellectuals and argued that the breakdown of communication between these two cultures was a major stumbling block in solving the world's problems.

Raymond Tallis: Hello, my name's Raymond Tallis, I'm Emeritus Professor of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Manchester. I think that the Wellcome Trust Book Prize is a very exciting development. Of course it will encourage a high level of writing about science amongst people whose primary interest perhaps is in the humanities or primary expertise is in the humanities, but also promote an interest in literature and literary values amongst science writers.

Julie Bennett: My name's Julie Bennett, I'm Communications Manager for British Energy and we're one of the sponsors of the Cheltenham Science Festival. With my company we're particularly interested in getting young people interested in science at an early age and think by doing it through literature is very innovative and very exciting and we're really interested to see what comes out of it next year.

Christine Hallett: My name's Christine Hallett, I'm the director of the UK Centre for the History of Nursing and Midwifery, which is based at the University of Manchester. I'd love to see a historian of nursing write a book that would win this prize. I think it's something that could really raise the profile of nursing in this country and enable the world, not just the British people but the world, to value nursing more. So I'm delighted to hear about the launch of this prize.

[end of transcript]