

A series of
contemporary poetry
events across
South Yorkshire



South
Yorkshire
Poetry
Festival

16 - 28 May 2017

www.southyorkshirepoetryfestival.com

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Welcome!

Welcome to the 2017 South Yorkshire Poetry Festival!

As Ian McMillan announced at the 2015 festival, there is a poetry renaissance happening in South Yorkshire, and we're inviting you to come along and be a part of it.

We're hosting a week of poetry events in Sheffield and around South Yorkshire between Monday 22 May and Sunday 28 May, with a varied programme of readings, performances, open mics and poetry walks. We're building on the work of the 2015 festival in bringing poetry to a variety of venues across South Yorkshire, and bringing you poets that are well-known alongside those that are up-and-coming. We've really enjoyed working with so many venues and organisations across South Yorkshire to put together this varied and exciting programme.

We hope you enjoy the festival, whether you're a first-time visitor or a South Yorkshire local. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this year's programme and, in particular, Arts Council England for their generous support.

Many thanks to our funders and partners for their support:



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Events

WORDLIFE – POLITICS SPECIAL

May 16

featuring GERRY POTTER & OPEN MIC

Tuesday, 16th May – 7.00 to 11.00pm

Venue: DINA Venue, 32 Cambridge Street,
Sheffield, S1 4HP

Tickets: Donations on the door

With the snap general election having just been announced, Wordlife will be running an event exploring poetry, politics and activism. There will be an open mic for poets to perform their own work, followed by longer sets from featured performers such as Gerry Potter. Gerry has a reputation for putting his Scouse voice on the line in a soaring sing-song accent, strong on poetry and strong on the causes of poetry. Creator and destroyer of the infamous gingham diva Chloe Poems, Gerry's new work is very different to his alter ego, though no less passionate.

'A Fantastically Entertaining Evening'
The Yorkshire Post

RAISING YOUR VOICE A Workshop

with HELEN MORT

Monday, 22nd May – 4.00 to 6.00pm

Venue: Grimm & Co, 2 Doncaster Gate,
Rotherham, S65 1DJ

Tickets: £5 in advance only

This workshop is open to young writers under the age of 30 and is aimed at giving people who are new to poetry more confidence to speak out. We'll look at getting started (and facing the blank page), sharing and performing poems. There will be creative writing prompts and advice on reading your work to an audience. No previous experience of writing poetry is necessary!

Helen Mort was born in Sheffield. Her first collection *Division Street* (Chatto and Windus, 2013) was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Costa Award and won the Jerwood Aldeburgh Prize. Her second collection *No Map Could Show Them* was shortlisted for the Banff festival's mountain book awards in Canada. Helen is a Lecturer in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan. In 2017, she was a judge for the International Man Booker Prize. Helen will also be appearing in the evening event at the same venue (see page 4).

May 22

A READING

May 22

with HIVE YOUNG WRITERS, LYDIA ALLISON, WARDA YASSIN, THEOPHILUS KWEK, PHOEBE STUCKES and HELEN MORT

Monday, 22nd May – 7.30 to 9.15pm
Venue: Grimm & Co, 2 Doncaster Gate, Rotherham, S65 1DJ
Tickets: £7 (£6 conc.)
In advance or on the door

Warda Yassin is an EAL English teacher at a Sheffield school. She writes about her family, culture, and the spaces and gaps in between these two worlds. Her main source of inspirations are her grandmothers and their vivid and infinite tales. She has performed alongside Buddy Wakefield, Jean 'Binta' Breeze, and Holly McNish. She is a current member of Writing Squad.

Hive South Yorkshire is a writer development project for young writers (14 to 25) in the region. Through writing-related activities such as writing groups, writers' days with professional writers, partnership projects and live events, we support young writers to develop – whatever their background, ability or interest. Readings from Hive regional groups: **Eloise Unerman**, from Rotherham Young Writers. **Shaw Fowler, Beth Davies**, both from Sheffield Young Writers. **Safia Khan**, from Doncaster Young Writers.

Born in Singapore, **Theophilus Kwek** has published four volumes of poetry – most recently **The First Five Storms**, which won the New Poets' Prize in 2016. He also won the Martin Starkie Prize in 2014, the Jane Martin Prize in 2015, and was co-winner of the Second Berfrois Poetry Prize. He has served as President of the Oxford University Poetry Society, and is currently co-editor of **Oxford Poetry** as well as Chief Executive Assistant at **Asymptote**. He is pursuing a Master's in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies at Oxford University.

Lydia Allison is a Sheffield-born poet currently studying an MA in Poetry at Manchester Metropolitan University. She is a member of the Writing Squad and has appeared a number of times both online and in print, including two of Pankhearst's **Slim Volumes**, **Now Then** Manchester, **Ink Sweat & Tears**, **United Jotters**, **Foxglove Journal**, and **PUSH**. She enjoys a range of modern and contemporary writers.

Phoebe Stuckes is a poet from Somerset. She has been a winner of the Foyle Young Poets Award four times and is a Barbican Young Poet. She has performed at the Southbank Centre, Wenlock Poetry Festival and the Poetry Cafe, and was the Ledbury Festival young poet in residence in 2015. Her poetry has been published in **The Missing Slate**, **Ink Sweat & Tears**, **Rising**, **The Morning Star** and **Ambit** among others.

Helen Mort – See page 3 for biography.

POSTGRADUATE CREATIVE WRITING SHOWCASE

May 23

Tuesday, 23rd May – 6.00 to 8.00pm
Venue: University of Sheffield, School of English, Jessop West, 1 Upper Hanover St, Sheffield, S3 7RA
Tickets: Free Event

The annual Lyric student showcase. Current students from the MA and PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Sheffield will read a selection of their newest and most exciting work.

POETRY ROOM

May 24

Wednesday, 24th May – 12.30 to 2.00pm
Venue: Bank Street Arts, 32-40 Bank St, Sheffield, S1 2DS
Tickets: Free event

A group of skilled poets who meet every month, as Members of Bank Street Arts, to critique a published collection and workshop each other's poems. We will be reading our own work which is rich in variety and form. We have been working at Bank St for some years now and look forward to revealing ourselves.

A READING

May 24

with CHRISSY WILLIAMS, ROY MCFARLANE, ZENA EDWARDS and IAN DUHIG

Wednesday, 24th May – 7.30 to 9.10pm
Venue: The Civic, Hanson St, Barnsley, S79 2HZ
Tickets: £10 (£8 conc.) From The Civic box office – 01226 327000

Chrissy Williams is a poet and editor living in London. She has published various poetry pamphlets and her first full collection **BEAR** is out from Bloodaxe this year. She is director of the annual Free Verse: Poetry Book Fair and also works as editor on the bestselling comic series **The Wicked + The Divine**.

Roy McFarlane was born in Birmingham of Jamaican parentage and spent most of his years living in Wolverhampton. He has held the role of Birmingham's Poet Laureate, and that of Poet in Residence for Starbucks and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Roy was highly commended by the Forward Prize for **Papers**, published in the Forward Book of Poetry 2017. Other anthologies include **Out of Bounds** (Bloodaxe 2012) and he is the writer and editor of **Celebrate Wha? Ten Black British Poets from the Midlands** (Smokestack 2011). His first full collection of poems, **Beginning With Your Last Breath**, was published by Nine Arches Press (2016).

Raised in Tottenham, North London, **Zena Edwards** has been involved in poetry and live literature performance for 24 years. She has been nominated for the Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowships award 2017, was nominated for the Arts Foundation Award for Performance Poetry 2013, and won the Hidden Creatives Award 2012. Zena's writing for performance explores collective and personal revolution, re-membering that which has been dismantled, and the continuum of the African diaspora pre- and post-colonial canon and narrative. After graduating from Middlesex University in Drama and Communication Studies, Zena has been involved in writing for performance for 20 years and is Creative Director of Verse In Dialog, a social enterprise company focused on poetry in cross art collaboration for social change.

Ian Duhig has written seven books of poetry, most recently **The Blind Roadmaker** (Picador 2016) which was shortlisted for the Roehampton, Forward Best Collection and TS Eliot Prizes. A former homelessness worker, Duhig still often works with socially excluded groups on writing projects and is currently developing a piece for **Refugee Tales**. Duhig is also an anthologised short story writer, in which capacity he was a joint winner of a Shirley Jackson Award. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a Cholmondeley Award recipient, Duhig has won the Forward Best Poem Prize once and the National Poetry Competition twice.

At a Glance Festival Diary

Event	Artist	Venue	Time	Page
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Raising Your Voice – A Workshop	Helen Mort	Grimm & Co, Rotherham	4.00pm	3
A Reading	Hive Young Writers, Lydia Allison, Warda Yassin, Theophilus Kwek, Phoebe Stuckes, Helen Mort	Grimm & Co, Rotherham	7.30pm	4
Tues 23 May				
Postgraduate Creative Writing Showcase	MA & PhD Creative Writing Graduates	Jessop West, Sheffield	6.00pm	4
Wed 24 May				
Poetry Room	Members of Bank St	Bank Street Arts, Sheffield	12.30pm	5
A Reading	Chrissy Williams, Roy McFarlane, Zena Edwards, Ian Duhig	The Civic, Barnsley	7.30pm	5
Thurs 25 May				
A Reading	Ruby Robinson, William Letford, Katherine Towers	Upper Chapel, Sheffield	7.30pm	8
Fri 26 May				
The Unsung	Genevieve Carver	Bank Street Arts, Sheffield	7.30pm	8
Sat 27 May				
A Poetry Business Writing Day	Ann & Peter Sansom	84 Queen St, Sheffield	10.15am	10
Verse Matters	Kate Fox, Solomon O.B, COR/PO Performance (Arts on the Run) with Angelina Abel, Mina Salama. Hive Young Writers & Open mic	Theatre Delicatessen, Sheffield	7.30pm	9
Book Launch	Cora Greenhill	Grindleford Bishop Pavilion	7.30pm	10
Sun 28 May				
Vanishing Point: a City Walk	Angelina D’Roza, Pete Green	Lady’s Bridge, Sheffield	11.00am	10

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Ruby Robinson	A Reading	Thurs 25 May	7.30pm	Upper Chapel, Sheffield	8
Mina Salama	Verse Matters	Sat 27 May	7.30pm	Theatre Delicatessen, Sheffield	9
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A READING

With RUBY ROBINSON, WILLIAM LETFORD
and KATHERINE TOWERS

Thursday, 25th May – 7.30 to 8.45pm

Venue: Upper Chapel, Norfolk St,
Sheffield, S1 2JD

Tickets: £10 (£8 conc.) In advance or on the door

Ruby Robinson was born in Manchester in 1985 and grew up in Sheffield and Doncaster. Her poems have appeared in *The Poetry Review*, *Poetry (Chicago)* and elsewhere. Her debut collection *Every Little Sound* was published in 2016 by Pavilion Poetry, an imprint of Liverpool University Press (edited by Deryn Rees-Jones), and was shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection and the T. S. Eliot Prize.

William Letford's debut collection *Bevel* was published by Carcanet in 2012. He has received a New Writers Award from the Scottish Book Trust, an Edwin Morgan Travel Bursary, and a Creative Scotland Artist's Bursary. He has taken part in translation projects through Lebanon, Iraq, and Palestine. In 2014 a chapbook of his poetry, *Potom Koža Toho Druhého*, was translated into Slovakian and published by Vertigo. His work has appeared on radio and television, and his second full collection *Dirt* was published by Carcanet in 2016.

Katharine Towers' first poetry collection *The Floating Man* was published by Picador in 2010 and won the Seamus Heaney Centre Poetry Prize. Her second *The Remedies* (also published by Picador) was shortlisted for the 2016 TS Eliot Prize. *The Floating Man* was shortlisted for the Jerwood-Aldeburgh First Collection Prize and for the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry and longlisted for The Guardian First Book Award. A poem from the collection, *The Way we Go*, was selected as a Poem on the Underground. Katharine's poems have appeared in The Guardian, Poetry Review, Poetry London, The North and in several anthologies including the *Forward Book of Poetry 2017*. She currently works as assistant editor at independent poetry publisher Candlestick Press, based in Nottingham. Katharine was born in London and read Modern Languages at St. Hilda's College, Oxford. In 2007 she completed an MA in Creative Writing at Newcastle University. She lives in Hathersage in the Peak District with her husband and two daughters.

May 25

May 26

You've heard of Kurt Cobain. You've heard of Jim Morrison. But have you heard of Scott Johnson, or Lina Prokofiev? *The Unsung* is a funeral party for the forgotten heroes of musical history – not the famous dead rock stars, but the people whose story has never been told. A journey in poetry and sound from Sheffield poet Genevieve Carver and her live band Sarah Sharp, Tim Knowles and Brian Bestall, *The Unsung* takes you on a whirlwind tour around the world exploring how music has shattered the lives of those who've loved it most.

THE UNSUNG

with GENEVIEVE CARVER

Friday, 26th May – 7.30 to 8.30 pm

Venue: Bank Street Arts,
32-40 Bank St, Sheffield, S1 2DS

Tickets: £7 (£6 conc.)
In advance or on the door

VERSE MATTERS

May 27

with KATE FOX, SOLOMON O.B, COR/PO PERFORMANCE
(Arts on the Run) with ANGELINA ABEL & OTHERS,
MINA SALAMA, HIVE YOUNG WRITERS & OPEN MIC

Saturday, 27th May – 7.30 to 10.00pm

Venue: Theatre Delicatessen, 17 The Moor,
Sheffield, S1 4PF

Tickets: Pay what you can (on the door only)

Kate Fox has made a living as a stand-up poet for ten years. Being funny and Northern is sometimes a help and sometimes a hindrance and she's doing a PhD about why. Sometimes they let her on Radio 4. Her car radio is tuned to Radio 2. She is currently making *#Lass War* on the man-heavy Northern Powerhouse. See blog for details.

2016 Hammer & Tongue National Slam champion, **Solomon O.B** is a Musician, Emcee, and Spoken Word artist who delivers passionate and engaging performances, challenging the status quo whilst pushing his own boundaries. A recent speaker at TEDx, Solomon has also featured on BBC Radio 1Xtra, Radio 5Live as well as The Guardian online.

COR/PO brings together the tradition of African oral history with an innovative performance choreographed by **Angelina Abel**. With its cinematic visual component conceived by filmmaker Joao Paulo Simoes, the project achieves intensely poignant moments which highlight the human condition through the extremes of slavery.

The backbone of COR/PO is the pioneering Angolan poetry of Mauricio de Almeida Gomes, yet the project is designed to incorporate a wide range of other forms of artistic expression – which will always be informed by the background and heritage of each contributor.

Angelina Abel was born in Angola and raised in Portugal by a family of dancers and performers. Angelina arrived in Sheffield 13 years ago and established the dance series Mulembas d'Africa and Mamawe Festival of intercultural dance, to explore, celebrate and teach heritage dance from the diaspora.

Mina Salama was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1979. After graduating from the University of Alexandria, he worked as a nay, piano and keyboard soloist player in the Oriental Orchestra of Alexandria Opera House from 2004 to 2012. He has written and arranged songs and music for Cairo Opera House and Alexandria Opera House. Now based in the UK, he has joined the Manchester International Roots Orchestra as a soloist, and is a guest musician with Oxford Maqam.

Hive South Yorkshire is a writer development project for young writers, age 14 to 25, in the region. Through writing activities, such as writing groups, writers' days with professional writers, live events & residencies, and by signposting wider opportunities, we support young writers to develop, whatever their background, ability or interest – from improving literacy, to pursuing a hobby or writing career. Hive works with partners to provide outreach opportunities to help remove barriers that prevent some young people accessing, enjoying, and developing their writing.

Verse Matters is an inclusive feminist arts collective based in Sheffield. Verse Matters provides a supportive space for people to come together and share their work, showcasing poetry, storytelling, music and comedy in a friendly, safe environment. Events are open to all.

A POETRY BUSINESS WRITING DAY

May 27

with ANN and
PETER SANSOM

Saturday 27th May – 10.15am to 4.00pm

Venue: North Church House, 84 Queen St, Sheffield, S1 2DW

Places: £30 (£25 unwaged)

Email office@poetrybusiness.co.uk to book

A writing day with Ann and Peter Sansom, directors of The Poetry Business. There will be writing exercises in the morning and a critical workshop in the afternoon. Please bring a poem (and ten copies) for the afternoon workshop – or better still, write one up to discuss from the morning session.

BOOK LAUNCH

with CORA GREENHILL

Saturday, 27th May – 7.30 to 9.30pm

Venue: Grindleford Bishop Pavilion, Main Rd, Grindleford, S32 2JN

All enquiries: cora@thirteenthmoon.co.uk

We are thrilled to invite you to the launch of **Artemis, The People Priestess**, a myth-interpretation of the relationship of the twins Artemis and Apollo in dramatic verse, and set in ancient Crete. There will be music, dance and visuals as part of the presentation. Drinks and Greek nibbles available from 7.00pm.

VANISHING POINT: A CITY WALK

with ANGELINA D'ROZA and PETE GREEN

Sunday, 28th May – 11.00am to 1.00pm

Venue: Lady's Bridge, Sheffield, S3 8GJ

Tickets: £7 (£6 conc.) In advance only

Join poets **Angelina D'Roza** and **Pete Green** on a walk that spans Lady's Bridge and the Cholera Monument, tracking central Sheffield's intersecting lines of road, river and rail, scaling and exploring its iconic and historic sites, and reflecting on its status as a city of sanctuary, before reaching a hilltop terminus with near-panoramic views of Sheffield. Along the way, Angelina and Pete will introduce and read poems that illuminate this changing landscape.

The walk will start on Lady's Bridge at 11am; please arrive in good time to ensure a prompt departure. The walk is moderately paced with gradual ascents, and will take approximately 2 hours (including several stops along the route).

Angelina D'Roza is poet in residence at Bank Street Arts. She is a writing mentor with the Koestler Trust, and volunteers as a shared reading facilitator. Her work includes collaborations with visual artists and sound artists, and her poems have appeared in a range of publications. Her debut collection **Envies the Birds** appeared from Longbarrow Press in 2016.

Pete Green is a Grimsby-raised, Walkley-based poet and musician who writes about coastlines, islands, railways, walking, love, whisky, underachievement, and getting lost. **Sheffield Almanac**, his debut poetry pamphlet, is forthcoming from Longbarrow Press. His solo albums include **We're Never Going Home** and **The Glass Delusion**.

May 28

Booking and Event Information

There are four different booking options, all indicated against each individual event:

- 1 Book in advance online, or on the door
- 2 Book on the door only
- 3 Book in advance online, only
- 4 Book direct through venue box office

ADVANCE BOOKING

Except where stated, advance booking is through online ticket sales only, through the SYPF website: www.southyorkshirepoetryfestival.com. Information about booking tickets at The Civic, Barnsley is on the website.

ON THE DAY

For all 'book on the door' events – tickets will be available for sale at each venue from 30 minutes before the event. Payments on the door at the venue by cash ONLY.

TICKET PRICES

See each individual listing for ticket prices. Concession rates refer to: Senior Citizens, registered unemployed, disabled, full time students and under 16's.

BOOK SALES

Books will be available for sale at most events. Bookstall run by 'Rhyme and Reason'.

ACCESS INFORMATION

South Yorkshire Poetry Festival warmly welcomes everyone to enjoy and take part in the events and activities of the Festival. We particularly welcome people with all forms of disabilities. When booking an event please contact the organising team by email: southyorkshirepoetryfestival@gmail.com to tell us about anything you may need to be able to join in and we'll do our best to sort things out.

Unfortunately, if we don't hear from you before the event, you'll appreciate we can't guarantee to provide it on the day – so get in touch as soon as possible!

Information on access to venues is on our website:

www.southyorkshirepoetryfestival.com

TRANSPORT & DIRECTIONS

Transport and Directions to all venues are available on our website, through links to each venue's individual website.

Thanks

We are grateful to all our programme partners, participating artists, funders, and patrons, and our dedicated team of freelance associates and volunteers for helping us bring this Festival to life.

Festival Directors

Suzannah Evans, Brian Lewis

Festival Team

Rachel Bower, Jim Caruth, Chris Jones, Maire McCarthy, Ellen McLeod

Design

Brochure: Jason Keens, *working with* New Start Design

Website: Brian Lewis/Longbarrow Press

Project management: Maire McCarthy Projects

Information

The information contained in the brochure should tell you all you need to know – but for any further queries please contact us by email on: southyorkshirepoetryfestival@gmail.com

To the best of our knowledge, all programming information was correct at the time of going to print. The organisers reserve the right to change the advertised programme.



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