

the poetry business

Apart Together

Digital Poetry Workshops

2021 PROGRAMME

Liz Berry · Niall Campbell · Mimi Khalvati · Michael Laskey · Hannah Lowe · Andrew McMillan · Kim Moore · Ann Sansom · Peter Sansom · Laura Scott · Kathryn Simmonds · Phoebe Stuckes · David Tait · Jackie Wills · River Wolton ·

Cliff Yates

the poetry business

*One of the most vital and vitalising
literature organisations in the country*

– ANDREW MOTION

Established in 1986, The Poetry Business is a publisher and writer development agency with a strong reputation for discovering, developing and publishing outstanding new and established poets.

We publish books, pamphlets, audio and eBooks under three imprints: Smith|Doorstop, Small Donkey (a children's poetry imprint) and the New Poets List, for poets under the age of 24. We edit a bi-annual literary magazine, *The North*, run Writing Days, masterclasses and residential courses and an advanced Writing School for published poets.

We also administer the International Book & Pamphlet Competition and the New Poets Prize for poets aged 17–24. Our poets have won or been shortlisted for almost every major poetry prize, and in both 2012 and 2017 Smith|Doorstop won the Michael Marks Award for Poetry Publishers.

Over the last three decades we have nurtured the writing and developed the careers of hundreds of poets. Our teaching, mentoring and editorial work is widely regarded as the benchmark in writer development provision.

Consolidating its role as a major support network for poets from all over the country... and is developing its stellar work to bring poetry to more people online.

– JUDGE'S COMMENTS

FROM THE 2017 MICHAEL MARKS AWARDS

**Wonderful,
engaging
and
creative.**

**EXTREMELY
USEFUL IN
ENCOURAGING
AND
SUPPORTING
CREATIVITY.**

**Some of my
best writing
has started life
in the Poetry
Business
workshops.**

**THESE WORKSHOPS
ARE A WONDERFUL
WAY TO ENGAGE WITH
OTHER POETS AND
GENERATE NEW
MATERIAL AND NEW
FRIENDSHIPS**

APART TOGETHER 2021 DIGITAL WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Welcome to The Poetry Business' 2021 programme of digital writing workshops, a series of 90-minute weekday workshops and longer Saturday sessions to ensure our poetry community stays connected.

All sessions include two additional bursary spaces per workshop reserved for BAME writers, writers from under-represented backgrounds, and writers currently experiencing financial hardship.

Tickets are available through Eventbrite. All workshops will be delivered via Zoom.

To book tickets or for more information on applying for a bursary place, please visit:
<https://poetrybusiness.co.uk/whats-on/workshops/>

90-MINUTE WEEKDAY WORKSHOPS

The Poetry Business' virtual poetry workshops feature brilliant writing exercises, supportive feedback, and excellent company. In this short generative workshop we will write together drawing on classic and contemporary poems to draft several new pieces. You will be given prompts and guidance throughout, with opportunities to read back. Just bring a pen or pencil and a notebook – all inspiration provided.

WEEKDAYS

11am–12.30

£18/£15 (CONCS)

3–3.5HR SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

In these co-tutored Saturday morning workshops we will write together drawing on classic and contemporary poems to draft several new pieces. You will be given prompts and guidance throughout, with opportunities to read back.

After a 30 minute break half-way through, we will divide into two groups to workshop one of your poems. This can be a poem you've brought with you or one that you've just written up from the first session. At the end of the workshop you will be given an optional reading and writing task.

SATURDAYS

9.30am or 10am–1pm

£30/£27 (CONCS)

MEET THE TUTORS



Liz Berry

Liz Berry's first book of poems, *Black Country* (Chatto 2014), was a PBS Recommendation, received a Somerset Maugham Award and won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Award and Forward Prize for Best First Collection 2014. Her pamphlet *The Republic of Motherhood* (Chatto, 2018) was a PBS Pamphlet choice and the title poem won the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem 2018. Liz works as a tutor for organisations including the Arvon Foundation and The Poetry School.



Niall Campbell

Niall Campbell is a poet from the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. His first collection, *Moontide*, won the inaugural Edwin Morgan Poetry Award and the Saltire First Book of the Year, both in 2014. *Noctuary*, his second collection, was published in 2019 and shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection.



Mimi Khalvati

Mimi Khalvati has published nine collections with Carcanet Press, including *The Meanest Flower*, shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize, and *Child: New and Selected Poems 1991-2011*, a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation. Her most recent book, *Afterwardness*, is a PBS Winter Wild Card and a book of the year in *The Sunday Times* and the *Guardian*. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.



Michael Laskey

Michael Laskey has published five collections, including the TS Eliot Prize shortlisted *The Tightrope Wedding* and, most recently, a *Very Selected* pamphlet (Smith|Doorstop, 2017). He directed the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival for ten years and co-edited *Smiths Knoll* for twenty-one. He lives in Suffolk and runs The Garlic Press. www.michaellaskey.co.uk



Hannah Lowe

Hannah Lowe has published two full collections of poetry with Bloodaxe – *Chick* (2013) and *Chan*. In 2014, she was named as one of 20 Next Generation British poets. Her third full collection, *The Kids*, is published in 2021.



Andrew McMillan

Andrew McMillan's two prize-winning collections of poetry are *Physical* and *Playtime*, both published by Jonathan Cape. He is senior lecturer in the Manchester Writing School at Manchester Met. A new collection is forthcoming.



Kim Moore

Kim Moore's first collection *The Art of Falling* (Seren, 2015) won the 2016 Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. She won a Northern Writers Award in 2014, an Eric Gregory Award in 2011 and the Geoffrey Dearmer Prize in 2010. Her pamphlet *If We Could Speak Like Wolves* was a winner in the 2011 Poetry Business Pamphlet Competition and was shortlisted for the Michael Marks Award. She is a PhD candidate at Manchester Metropolitan University, working on her second collection and is one of the judges for the 2020 Forward Prizes.



Ann Sansom

Ann Sansom is co-director of The Poetry Business, and editor of *Smith|Doorstop* and *The North* magazine. She is a poet, playwright and tutor. She has published six collections of poetry; had work published in several Forward/Faber anthologies, *Russian Vogue* and a range of other publications. She has also written and directed plays for stage and audio. Her two full length poetry collections are published by Bloodaxe.

MEET THE TUTORS



Peter Sansom

Peter Sansom has published *Writing Poems* (Bloodaxe) and five collections with Carcanet, including a recent *Selected Poems*. He has been writer in residence with M&S, company poet with Prudential, and Fellow in Poetry at both Leeds and Manchester Universities. With Ann Sansom he is a director of The Poetry Business and co-editor of *The North* magazine and Smith|Doorstop Books.



Phoebe Stuckes

Phoebe Stuckes is a writer from West Somerset now living in London. Her debut pamphlet, *Gin & Tonic* was shortlisted for The Michael Marks Award 2017. She has been awarded an Eric Gregory Award and The Geoffrey Dearmer Prize. Her first full-length collection, *Platinum Blonde* is published by Bloodaxe Books.



Laura Scott

Laura Scott's pamphlet *What I Saw* (The Rialto, 2014) won the Michael Marks Award. A selection of her work is featured in Carcanet's *New Poetries VII*: her debut collection *So Many Rooms* was published last year, also by Carcanet, and won the 2020 Seamus Heaney Centre First Collection Prize.



Kathryn Simmonds

Kathryn Simmonds has published two collections of poetry and a pamphlet. Recent poems have appeared in *The New Statesman*, *The Poetry Review*, *Poetry London*, *Poetry Ireland Review* and *Wild Court*. She has written for Radio 4 and taught courses for The Poetry School and Oxford University.



David Tait

David Tait's collections are published through Smith|Doorstop and include *The AQI*, which was shortlisted for the Ledbury Forte Prize, and *Self-Portrait with The Happiness*, which received an Eric Gregory Award. He lives and works in Shanghai, where he currently acts as a walking buffet for the city's mosquito population.



Jackie Wills

Jackie Wills has published six collections of poetry, as well as short stories and non-fiction. She's been a writer and tutor for more than 40 years. Her most recent collection is *A Friable Earth* (Arc 2019). Wills has been a Royal Literary Fund Fellow and run several reading groups – most recently in a ward for young people with mental health problems.



River Wolton

River Wolton is a former Derbyshire Poet Laureate whose collections are published by Smith|Doorstop. For more than twenty years she has run writing workshops with people of all ages and backgrounds.



Cliff Yates

Cliff Yates' collections include *Henry's Clock*, which won the Aldeburgh First Collection Prize and the Poetry Business book & Pamphlet competition, *Frank Freeman's Dancing School*, and *Jam*. He wrote *Jumpstart Poetry in the Secondary School* during his time as Poetry Society poet-in-residence. He leads courses and workshops in the UK and abroad.



FEBRUARY

WORKSHOPS & DATES

Friday 19th **Phoebe Stuckes**
11am-12:30pm **New & Unusual Sonnets**

In this workshop participants will be looking at sonnets from: Terrance Hayes, Sam Sax, RA Villanueva, Anne Marie Rooney, Bernadette Mayer, among others. We will be thinking about the rules of the sonnet form, how to use them to generate new work and how to mess around with them.

Tues 23rd **Michael Laskey**
11am-12:30pm **How to Please & Surprise Yourself**

Half a dozen stimulating exercises exploring what William Stafford called ‘the precious area of confusion where you do not know what you are going to say and then you find out’.

Thurs 25th **Kathryn Simmonds**
11am-12:30pm **Hearing Voices**

In this workshop, we’ll take inspiration from Tony Hoagland’s 2019 handbook, ‘The Art of Voice’ and experiment with some ways of hearing – and writing – new poems.

WORKSHOPS & DATES

Tues 2nd
11am-12:30pm

Laura Scott
The Virtues of Sprawl

'Taut', 'elliptical', 'compressed', 'concentrated' - these adjectives are often used as terms of praise when it comes to poems, but what happens if we turn that notion on its head and think of the virtues and pay-offs of expansiveness? In this workshop we will explore various ways in which we can claim more space for ourselves as poets.

Weds 10th
11am-12:30pm

Niall Campbell
Into the Dark Woods

Poetry is often made out of small discoveries, and in this workshop we will look at such findings. Walking in on the solitude of things, (mushrooms, deer, foxes) we will look at who has written these well – and then look to write our own poems of the quietly energised moment.

Tues 16th
11am-12:30pm

Andrew McMillan

Giving our Writing a Boost: looking at different ways to put some energy into our work and revitalise it.

Tues 23rd
11am-12:30pm

Liz Berry
Charms & Superstitions

Join Liz Berry for a playful, practical workshop using superstitions and lucky charms (old, new and imaginary!) to conjure enchanting new writing. Suitable for poets of all stages.

Sat 20th
10am - 1pm

Ann & Peter Sansom
Mini Writing Day

In this longer Saturday workshop we will write together drawing on classic and contemporary poems to draft several new pieces. You will be given prompts and guidance throughout. In the afternoon we will divide into two groups to workshop one of your poems.



WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS & DATES

Tues 6th
11am-12:30pm

Hannah Lowe

In these workshops we will mine personal experience and ordinary everyday life, for poetry. We will read a wide range of published poems, considering how meaning is created through image, music and the poetic line, and aim to produce our own fresh and original work.

Weds 7th
11am-12:30pm

Ann & Peter Sansom

These workshops feature brilliant writing exercises, supportive feedback, and excellent company. In this difficult time, we are offering these digital writing sessions to ensure our poetry community stays connected and that we keep writing.

Tues 13th
11am-12:30pm

Kim Moore
Writing the Journey

Range far and wide, from the comfort of home, to write about journeys – physical and metaphorical.

Weds 14th
11am-12:30pm

Ann & Peter Sansom

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Tues 20th
11am-12:30pm

River Wolton
Wild Mind Writing

In life, writing and creativity there is much delight to be found, along with the inevitable cycles of praise & blame, success & failure, comparison & contentment. How do we tap into resilience to navigate these ups and downs? These workshops will combine the 'writing practice' method of Zen teacher Natalie Goldberg with guided meditation and reflection, to support greater peace in the midst of our lives.

WORKSHOPS & DATES

Sat 24th
9:30am - 1pm

Michael Laskey & Jackie Wills
Mini Writing Day

In this longer Saturday workshop we will write together drawing on classic and contemporary poems to draft several new pieces. You will be given prompts and guidance throughout. In the afternoon we will divide into two groups to workshop one of your poems.

Weds 28th
11am-12:30pm

Mimi Khalvati

‘The Long and the Short of it’: finding new ways into short and long poems, with a close focus on using varied syntax and line breaks.



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WORKSHOPS & DATES

Tues 4th
11am-12:30pm

David Tait
The New Not Normal

In these workshops we will dive into weird and wonderful places, exploring unfamiliar landscapes, relationships and people. We will read a variety of poems from around the world and use these as spark-off points for our own poetic responses.

Weds 12th
11am-12:30pm

Michael Laskey
How to Please & Surprise Yourself

Half a dozen stimulating exercises exploring what William Stafford called 'the precious area of confusion where you do not know what you are going to say and then you find out'.

Tues 18th
11am-12:30pm

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Weds 26th
11am-12:30pm

Cliff Yates

We'll be writing in response to the kind of poems that make you want to pick up your pen and write, in exercises that set out to surprise you into going on your nerve, into writing about things you might not have thought of, and in ways you haven't written before.

Sat 29th
10am-1pm

Ann & Peter Sansom
Mini Writing Day

In this longer Saturday workshop we will write together drawing on classic and contemporary poems to draft several new pieces. You will be given prompts and guidance throughout. In the afternoon we will divide into two groups to workshop one of your poems.

WORKSHOPS & DATES

Tues 1st Jackie Wills

11am–12.30pm

This session is are designed to help you start off poems and generate ideas. Jackie will read poems by other writers and set you prompts. You'll work fast, with the aim of producing several pieces of work to fine-tune or develop in your own time.

Tues 8th Kim Moore

11am–12.30pm Writing the Journey

Range far and wide, from the comfort of home, to write about journeys – physical and metaphorical.

Weds 9th Hannah Lowe

11am–12.30pm

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Sat 31st **Ann & Peter Sansom**
10am-1pm **Mini Writing Day**

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