



WINCHESTER  
**POETRY**  
FESTIVAL

8-10 OCTOBER 2021

## Poet on the High Street

Running alongside our stretched festival, we have established an innovative community heritage poet-in-residence programme for Winchester. With funds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Winchester BID, Winchester City Council, and many individuals through a successful crowdfunding campaign, our Poet on the High Street, Jon Seagrave AKA Jonny Fluffypunk, has been engaging people throughout Winchester in exploring the hidden heritage of the city through poetry. Find out more about this programme and book for one of our free workshops including a performative heritage walk as a part of Heritage Open Days.

### Poetry Marketplace

Throughout the festival weekend the café area of the Winchester Discovery Centre will be a Poetry Marketplace with poetry activities, bookstalls and more.

P&G Wells bookshop will sell books by visiting poets and there will be a secondhand bookstall with a wonderful array of pre-loved poetry titles.

The festival welcome desk will have a range of our own publications.



Welcome to Winchester Poetry Festival's programme of live events taking place this October in Winchester Discovery Centre. Once again, we have some remarkable and diverse sessions: from Things Being Various featuring outstanding Irish poet and professor of poetry, Paul Muldoon; to our popular international prize-giving reading; to the remarkable poets Liz Berry, Patience Agbabi, and Romalyn Ante; to Hampshire Poet, Kathryn Bevis, and Winchester Muse, and to much more.

This year, Winchester Poetry Festival has been doing things a little differently – we have 'stretched' the festival over five months with a hybrid of online and real-world events accessible to everyone. Indeed, the festival overall is our biggest programme so far featuring an array of wonderful readers and speakers, a wide range of workshops – and our Poet on the High Street community residency (see below). We do hope we will see you at some of our events which are all detailed here.

The festival's trustees are immensely grateful to all our partner organisations and supporters: volunteers, Friends and especially the funders and sponsors whose generosity makes the festival possible.

**Tickets can be booked online at [ticketsource.co.uk/winchester-poetry-festival](https://ticketsource.co.uk/winchester-poetry-festival) or if you prefer to book in person you can do so via the Winchester Discovery Centre Box Office 01962 873603.** (Please be reassured that your safety is paramount. We will therefore be taking Covid19 precautions and following Winchester Discovery Centre CV-19 guidance.)

I look forward to seeing you.

**Jane Bryant,**  
Chair, Winchester Poetry Festival



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Friday 8 October

## Hampshire Poet invites: Ghost River Collective

6.00 – 7.00pm, Performance Hall £5.00

Kathryn Bevis, Hampshire Poet 2020–2021 invites local poetry organisations to showcase and celebrate the best of their work.

Formed in 2018, Ghost River Collective is a trio of Southampton-based poets, Anita Foxall, Damian O’Vitch and Dave Hubble.

Known for the quality of their writing and for their compelling performances linked to place – heritage, landscape, people and history woven into current events, issues and themes – Ghost River Collective’s recent commissions include the Mayflower 400 project and the Eastleigh Poetry Trail.



Friday 8 October

## Clare Pollard and Paul Muldoon

7.30 – 8.30pm, Performance Hall

£12.00, Under 25s £5.00

The festive opening night for the live Winchester Poetry Festival features Clare Pollard and Paul Muldoon. Two brilliant, vital and inventive poets whose work shares a spirited restlessness and formal intricacy. A rousing return to live poetry readings.

Paul Muldoon was born in County Armagh and now lives in New York. A former radio and television producer for the BBC in Belfast, he has taught at Princeton University for more than thirty years. He is the author of thirteen collections of poetry including *Moy Sand* and *Gravel*, for which he won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize, and *Frolic and Detour*, published in 2019.

Clare Pollard has published five collections of poetry with *Bloodaxe*, most recently ***Incarnation***, and a pamphlet ***The Lives of the Female Poets***, published by Bad Betty Press. She is the current editor of *Modern Poetry in Translation* and poetry editor for *The Idler*.



**Saturday 9 October**

## **'The Same Greedy Occupants': Ecopoetics of Homemaking**

**Workshop with Caleb Parkin**

10.00am – 12.00 noon, Learning Rooms  
£20.00 (places limited)

Ecology and Nature: an imagined idyll, the untouched wilderness, 'out there'... But what if we look closer to home?

Join Caleb Parkin to 'zoom in' from the ecopoetics of towns and cities, right down to the ecopoetics of each room – including gardens. You'll be invited to consider alternative realities, "morphing human households into more-than-human 'packs'".

This will be a playful session, addressing ideas of environmental and social justice.

## **Things Being Various – Paul Muldoon with Jon Sayers**

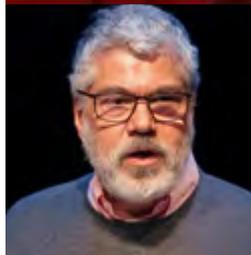
12.30pm - 1:30pm, Performance Hall

£8.00

Paul Muldoon on the poet's craft and inspiration.

In conversation with Jon Sayers, Irish poet and professor of poetry Paul Muldoon discusses 'five things' that have inspired him and are symbolic of stages in his artistic development. Muldoon will accompany the discussion with readings from his recent work.

The brilliantly successful format for 'Things Being Various' was devised by Jon Sayers for the inaugural Winchester Poetry Festival in 2014. This is a fascinating and thought-provoking approach to discussing poetics and craft.



**Saturday 9 October**

## **Winchester Poetry Prize Result and Readings**

2.30pm – 3.30pm, Performance Hall

Free but tickets should be booked

Now in its sixth year, Winchester Poetry Prize has gone from strength to strength. Come along and hear the winning poems. There's also a prize for the best poem by a Hampshire-based poet.

Prizes will be presented by our Judge Jacqueline Saphra.

The Winchester Poetry prize is sponsored by Paris Smith.

The prize for a Hampshire poem is supported by Warren & Son.

## **Winchester Muse Showcase**

5.00pm - 6.00pm, Performance Hall

£5.00

Winchester Muse (formerly Loose Muse) is the premier local platform for Poetry. Monthly gatherings feature well known guest poets and a quality open mic – many members are published poets.

In this showcase event members read their work inspired by the themes of Community, Cohesion and Revival.



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## Saturday 9 October

### Telling Tales: Patience Agbabi with Kathryn Bevis

6.30pm – 7.30pm, Performance Hall  
£12.00, Under 25s £5.00

Festival favourite Patience Agbabi is back with a virtuosic performance of Telling Tales, her retelling of Chaucer, featuring a dazzling cast of twenty-first century Londoners. Patience will also read her 'Refugee's Tale' and introduce this important refugee project to the audience.

Hampshire Poet, Kathryn Bevis, as she nears the end of her tenure in this role will share some of her work produced during the last two years.

## Sunday 10 October

### Exploring the Spectrum: The Colour of Poetry

Workshop with Rebecca Goss  
10.00am – 12.00 noon, Learning Rooms  
£20.00 (places limited)

Colour is all around us. It can shape our mood, evoke a memory, provide warning, or dazzle and delight. But how do we describe colour? How can it be explained and understood?

Using a variety of texts to inspire, this workshop is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the language of colour to create new poems of all shades.

## Sunday 10 October

### A Whole New Constellation Writing for Wellbeing Workshop with Jon Sayers

12.15pm – 2.15pm, Learning Rooms  
£15.00 (places limited)

In this friendly and supportive writing workshop, we will be looking at poems by some of the poets who will be reading in this year's Winchester Poetry Festival, and using their words as springboards for our own expressive and exploratory writing. During the workshop, we will try out a number of different journaling techniques and will be writing in prose unless, as sometimes happens, a poem happens to fall from the end of the pen. No previous writing experience is necessary.

### Close Reading with Aviva Dautch

1.00pm – 1.25pm, Performance Hall  
Free but places must be reserved

Poet, mentor and broadcaster Aviva Dautch shares the poem 'The New Colossus' by Emma Lazarus, the poem mounted on The Statue of Liberty.

This close reading will explore the resilience and malleability of the sonnet form, and Lazarus's influences and intentions, as well as asking what it means to write a political poem. Copies of the poem will be handed out to attendees.



**Sunday 10 October**

## Poets in Residence In conversation

2.30pm – 3.15pm, Performance Hall

Free but places must be booked

Hampshire Poet Kathryn Bevis and Bristol Poet Caleb Parkin discuss their different experiences of taking on a poet in residence role and well as sharing some of the work that they have written during their tenures. Winchester's very own Poet on the High Street, Jonny Fluffypunk, will zoom in making this a hybrid event.



**Sunday 10 October**

## Ambassadors Showcase

Introducing April Egan, Kaycee Hill and Eve Wright.

4.00pm – 4.45pm, Performance Hall

Free but tickets should be booked

Three of the region's best young poets have been mentored for the last year as part of our Poetry Ambassadors scheme, co-ordinated by ArtfulScribe and the University of Southampton. Come and hear them perform their work alongside their mentors Romalyn Ante, Aviva Dautch, and Caleb Parkin, and help celebrate the launch of their new chapbook, published by Broken Sleep Books.

This event is presented in association with ArtfulScribe, and with support from the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Foyle Foundation. It will be chaired by Matt West and Will May.

## Rice and Rain

Liz Berry and Romalyn Ante

5.00pm – 6.00pm, Performance Hall

£12.00, Under 25s £5.00

We are pleased to welcome back Liz Berry who wowed audiences at the 2014 inaugural Winchester Poetry Festival and also for the first time rising star Romalyn Ante.

This promises to be an evening of beautiful, poignant and necessary poetry from two poets whose voice and clarity of vision entrance and nourish.

## FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER

Hampshire Poet invites: Ghost River Collective	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Group reading
Friday Night: Paul Muldoon and Clare Pollard	7.30pm – 8.30pm	Reading

## SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER

Caleb Parkin Workshop: Eco Poetry of the Home	10.00am – 12.00 noon	Workshop
Things Being Various: Paul Muldoon with Jon Sayers	12.30pm – 1.30pm	Discussion with readings
Winchester Poetry Prize Readings and Results	2.30pm – 3.30pm	Prizegiving
Winchester Muse	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Group reading
Telling Tales: Patience Agbabi and Kathryn Bevis	6.30pm – 7.30pm	Reading

## SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER

Rebecca Goss workshop: Exploring the Spectrum	10.00am – 12.00 noon	Workshop
A Whole New Constellation: Poetry for Wellbeing workshop with Jon Sayers	12.15pm – 2.15pm	Workshop
Close reading with Aviva Dautcsh	1.00pm – 1.25pm	Close reading
Poets in Residence In Discussion	2.30pm – 3.15pm	Discussion with readings
Ambassador Showcase	4.00pm – 4.30pm	Group reading
Rice & Rain: Liz Berry and Romalyn Ante	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Reading

To book tickets online visit  
[ticketsource.co.uk/winchester-poetry-festival](https://ticketsource.co.uk/winchester-poetry-festival)

To book by telephone ring Winchester Discovery Centre  
Box Office 01962 873603 or visit during opening hours.

[winchesterpoetryfestival.org](https://winchesterpoetryfestival.org)

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