

# Torbay Festival of *Poetry*



**Thursday 19th - Monday 23rd October  
2017**

# Torbay Festival of *Poetry*

Welcome to this year's Torbay Festival of Poetry. Thank you to all who used the new Festival website to order tickets, enter the competition or find out more about the poets waiting to entertain you.

Our popular Thursday evening party-style opening event is once again at Torre Abbey where we will be taking a wry look at the Poets' Laureate throughout the ages, from John Skelton to the present day. They are not always the reputable rhymers you may have thought they were.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Cornish poet, Charles Causley, and the Festival will be marking the occasion with an event about the life and poetry of the well-loved poet. We will also celebrate the Brontë family with an event which looks at how the sisters and their brother Branwell were influenced by their clergyman father, Patrick Brontë.

So with poets being put 'On the Spot' and the popular Open Mic lunchtime sessions giving everyone a chance to strut their stuff, there is much variety in this year's programme. The subject for the Festival Challenge will be announced at the Thursday evening event.

With twenty five events, poetry will fill the weekend. As well as listening to readings, learning more about writing poetry at workshops and listening to poets talking about their craft, you can meet the poets and, above all, ask questions of them. Visitors to the Festival enjoy the convivial atmosphere of the Livermead Cliff Hotel, which is situated on the water's edge. This is a long weekend which celebrates all things poetic in the heart of beautiful Torbay: sea, palm trees, light ... and inspiration! For ease of administration, single appropriate prices will be charged for each event. Tea / Coffee and the famous shortbreads are included in the price of certain events.

The Festival's aim of a packed schedule of events, mainly concentrated at the comfortable Livermead Cliff Hotel, has established an inspiring literary weekend by the sea with the added advantage of the beautiful English Riviera as a backdrop.

**WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THURSDAY EVENING AND MONDAY MORNING, ALL OTHER EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LIVERMEAD CLIFF HOTEL, SEA FRONT, TORQUAY, TQ2 6RQ.**

**Free car parking and disabled access are available at the hotel.**

# READING

## ACE Poets for ACE Poetry

The Access to Community Education Group of Brixham College helps disabled people to fulfill their capability. They thoroughly enjoy our yearly visit and often join in the poetry readings. This year **BRENDA HUTCHINGS** and **ROY CAMERON** represent the Festival.

**Ace Group, Brixham Community College**

**10.45am - 12.00 noon      FREE EVENT**

## EVENT

### POETS' LAUREATE:

### THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE MEDIOCRE

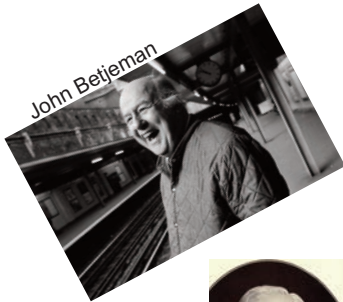
**7.30 - 9.30pm**

**Tickets: £10.00 to include wine and nibbles**



Poets' Laureate through the ages have been chosen for many attributes, not all of them connected with poetry. As Thomas Gray stated, 'there are still poets little enough to want to be a poet laureate'. The event takes a wry look at their work, their thoughts and their often amusing anecdotes.

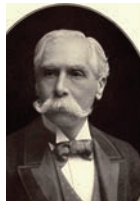
Chaired by **GLYN PURSGLOVE with other readers.**



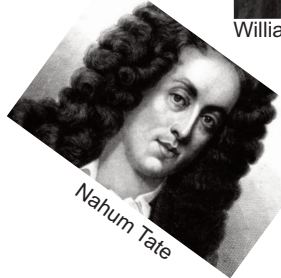
John Betjeman



William Wordsworth



Alfred Austin



Nahum Tate

**Torre Abbey, The King's Drive, Torquay, TQ2 5JE,**

This event is sponsored by the Estate of J.D.Beugger

Check out p.10 for *Open Mic*, and

*On the Spot*

**FREE EVENTS**

## WORKSHOP

with Wendy French

**Details of all workshops  
on page 10**

### READING

## OUT OF AFRICA

**JENNIFER JOHNSON  
GRAHAM BURCHELL**

**10.15am - 11.15am**  
Tickets £4.00

These readers show how time spent in Africa has filtered through into their poetry.

### TIME FOR COFFEE

#### *ON THE SPOT*

**11.45am - 12.15pm**

#### *OPEN MIC*

**12.45 - 2.00pm**

for details see page 10

### READING

## ANN GRAY

**2.15 - 2.45pm**  
Tickets £4.00

**ANN GRAY** uses poetry to express herself. She feels there is space inside the poem which she rarely finds in prose.

### READING

**MYRA SCHNEIDER  
ALASDAIR PATERSON**

**3.00 - 4.00pm**  
Tickets: £5.00

## TIME FOR TEA at 4.15pm

**/cont.**

**MYRA SCHNEIDER** is a well-known published poet whose poetry people find very accessible. She is co-editor of several anthologies.

**ALASDAIR PATERSON** lives in Exeter and helps run the Exeter Festival. A fine example of the frequent Scottish contributions to English culture.

### READING

**KATHY MILES  
MATTHEW BARNARD**

**5.00 - 6.00pm**

Tickets £5.00

**KATHY MILES'** poems are layered with myth, history, and personal experience. They are full of fine observation.

**MATTHEW BARNARD** is a poet and short-story writer. He has been published widely in magazines.

### FRIDAY READING

**MIMI KHALVATI  
DUNCAN FORBES**

**8.00 - 9.30pm**

Tickets: £10.00

includes a glass of wine

**MIMI KHALVATI** is Romantic in sensibility and, in that peculiarly English way, somewhat restrained, but her poetry also expresses a gorgeous sensuality.

**DUNCAN FORBES** writes with great awareness of accuracy, style and expression. His work has been widely published in Britain and the USA.

## WORKSHOP

with Kathy Miles

Details of all workshops  
on page 10

### EVENT

#### LIFE, TIMES & POETRY OF CHARLES CAUSLEY

10.00 - 11.15am

Tickets: £5.00

On the Centenary of his birth, the event will cover Charles Causley's poetry, his life and his time. The event will also include some of Causley's poems set to music.

Directed by JOHN MILES.

### TIME FOR COFFEE

*ON THE SPOT*

11.45am - 12.15pm

*OPEN MIC*

12.45 - 2.00pm

for details see page 10

### READING

MAGGIE BUTT  
WILLIAM OXLEY

2.15 - 3.15pm

Tickets £5.00

**MAGGIE BUTT** writes with elegance and wit. Time, work, birth and death; love and loss; the essentials of human experience are here.

**WILLIAM OXLEY** writes 'a full-bodied poetry of largesse. It should be quaffed rather than sipped.'

## READING

MIRIAM DARLINGTON

3.30 - 4.00pm

Tickets: £4.00

MIRIAM DARLINGTON's interests lie in animals, landscape and place, and in what is known as 'the new nature writing'.

Followed by tea and biscuits.

### TORBAY POETRY COMPETITION RESULTS

Hosted by this year's judge:  
PENELOPE SHUTTLE

4.30 - 5.30pm FREE EVENT

You'll have seen the short-listed poem posters, now for the judge's verdict. Does it agree with yours? All short-listed poets have been invited to read their poems.

### WINE AND SUPPER

with MARTYN CRUCEFIX

7.00 for 7.30pm, Supper 8.30pm

*Tickets £35 to include a welcoming drink, the reading, and a three-course dinner with coffee and wine.*

**Reading only £7.50**

Relax with friends, old and new, at the Festival Supper. This year's reader is

**MARTYN CRUCEFIX**

Amongst other poems, Martyn will include readings from his seventh full collection, *The Lovely Disciples*. His poems are heartfelt, controlled and masterful.



**VERONICA AARONSON** is one of the founders of the Teignmouth Poetry Festival. She is a member of Moor Poets and enjoys reading at venues around the South West.



**SHANTA ACHARYA** is the author of eleven books, ranging from poetry, literary criticism and fiction to finance. Her latest publication is *Imagine: New & Selected Poems* by HarperCollins.



**MATTHEW BARNARD** is a poet and short story writer. His debut poetry pamphlet *The Bends* was published by Eyewear and his first full collection will be published by in spring 2018.



**ISABEL BERMUDEZ** was born in Colombia, grew up in London, and was educated at Cambridge. She has published two collections of poetry: including *Small Disturbances*, Rockingham Press.



**GRAHAM BURCHALL** was born in Canterbury, now lives in South Devon. His third collection *Kate* was published in May 2015. He is one of the team responsible for the Teignmouth Poetry Festival.



**MAGGIE BUTT's** first pamphlet was published by *Acumen*. Her fifth poetry collection, *Degrees of Twilight*, was published in 2015. She is a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at the University of Kent.



**ROY CAMERON's** first collection *The Sara Poems* was published by Iron Press. As well as a poet he is a folk singer who regularly performs his music and poetry in Torbay.

**THE POETS**  
for more details  
please see the website where you  
can order tickets to any of their  
events.



**MARTYN CRUCEFIX** has won numerous prizes including a Hawthornden Fellowship. His translation of Rilke's *Duino Elegies* was hailed as "unlikely to be bettered for very many years"



**MIRIAM DARLINGTON's** poems have appeared in journals and anthologies across the UK. She is an English teacher and lives in Devon where she also works as a freelance writer.



**DUNCAN FORBES** has brought out *Lifelines, a Selected Poems* drawn from five previous collections. Awards a Gregory Award, TLS/ Blackwells Prize, and a Hawthornden Fellowship.



**WENDY FRENCH** is a poet and professional tutor in the field of health, working with health and community organisations. Her latest collection, *surely you know this*, was published in 2009.



**ANN GRAY's** collections include *At the Gate* and *The Man I was Promised*. She lives in Cornwall and has a care home for people with dementia. Co-director of the Bodmin Moor Poetry Festival.



**VIRGINIA GRIEM** was first published in the 2014 Barn Owl Trust anthology. She is actively involved in the Teignmouth Poetry Festival, and is also an artist and potter.



**DANIELLE HOPE** founded *Zenos*, a magazine of British and International Poetry, and is editorial advisor of *Acumen*. She translates Italian poetry, especially Montale and Pascoli.



**COLIN PINNEY** trained at RADA, and directed plays here and in America. A member of the *BBC Radio Drama Company*, his television appearances include *Jeeves and Wooster*, and *The Bill*.



**JENNIFER JOHNSON** was born in Sudan and has worked in Zambia. *Footprints on Africa and Beyond* relates her experience there. She lives in London and works as a freelance writer.



**JULIE-ANN ROWELL** was born in Devon and graduated from Reading University before moving to London, then Newbury. She currently works as a writer, teacher and editor.



**MIMI KHALVATI** has received a major Arts Council Writer's Award and her most recent collection, *The Weather Wheel* was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation.



**MYRA SCHNEIDER's** most recent collections are *The Door to Colour* and *Persephone in Finsbury Park*. She tutors for The Poetry School in London, where she lives and runs poetry events.



**ALWYN MARRIAGE**, a university lecturer, director of two international NGOs and a Rockefeller scholar, is managing editor of *Oversteps Books* and a research fellow at Surrey University.



**PENELOPE SHUTTLE** lives in Cornwall, and Bloodaxe Books published *Will You Walk A Little Faster?* She is a founder member and now President of the Falmouth Poetry Group.



**KATHY MILES** has published three collections of poetry. She won the Welsh Poetry Competition in 2014 and the Bridport Prize in 2015. She is co-editor of *The Lampeter Review*.

the committee  
 John Miles Brenda Hutchings  
 Danny Pyle  
 Suzy Miles William Oxley



**PATRICK OSADA** is an editor, writes reviews for magazines and is a member of the management team for *South Poetry Magazine*. He has published four collections, a fifth, *Changes* in 2017.



**ALASDAIR PATERSON** won an Eric Gregory Award in 1975 and published several collections before taking a twenty-year break as a librarian, finally as librarian at Exeter University.



## WORKSHOP

with Danielle Hope

**Details of all workshops  
on page 10**

**EVENT: 10.00 - 10.20am**

**FREE EVENT: Patricia Oxley** on editing *Acumen Literary Journal*.

**READING: MEDIEVAL WOMEN**

**ALWYN MARRIAGE  
JULIE-ANNE ROWELL**

**10.25 - 11.25am  
Tickets: £5.00**

Both poets have written about strong minded women who lived when women were almost invisible.

**TIME FOR COFFEE**

**ON THE SPOT  
11.45am - 12.15pm**

**OPEN MIC  
12.45 - 2.00pm  
for details see page 10**

**READING**

**SHANTA ACHARYA  
PATRICK OSADA**

**2.15pm - 3.15pm.  
Tickets: £5.00**

**SHANTA ACHARYA'S** poetry is very much at the focal point of life and human identity. She feels simplicity is at the heart of great poetry.

**PATRICK OSADA** has long been the master of traditional verse celebrating the natural world. His latest book also extends his range to the changing environment.

## READING

**PENELOPE SHUTTLE**

**3.30 - 4.00pm  
Tickets: £5.00**

PENELOPE SHUTTLE's poems are full of elemental imagery: water, earth and, in particular, weather. In her role as witness, her language takes on a ceremonial quality.

**TEA TIME**

**FESTIVAL CHALLENGE**

**4.15pm - 5.00pm for reading poems  
Results at approx. 6.00pm. FREE EVENT**

Register on the day (£1) to read your specially written poem on this year's theme and perhaps become our Festival Champion. With small prizes. Chaired by Danielle Hope / David Perman

**READING**

**ISABEL BERMUDEZ**

**5.15 - 5.45pm  
Tickets: £4.00**

Isabel's poems come from a perception that the past is forever seeping into the present generations later. Her poems are vibrant and colourful.

**EVENT**

**PATRICK, FATHER OF THE BRONTËS  
8.00 - 9.30pm**

**Tickets: £10.00 includes a glass of wine.**

*includes the verse of Branwell and Emily - with Charlotte's comments!*

Narrated by **COLIN PINNEY**

Sunday 22 October

More information can be found on the Festival website [www.torbaypoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.torbaypoetryfestival.co.uk)



**Details of all workshops  
on page 10**

**EVENT**

**POETRY FROM THE  
TEIGNMOUTH FESTIVAL  
ORGANISERS**

**10.30 - 11.45am Tickets: £6.00**

**to include tea/coffee from 10.00am**

The Teignmouth Poetry Festival organisers  
will read from their work,  
introduced by IAN CHAMBERLAIN.

featuring  
**VERONICA AARONSON  
VIRGINIA GRIEM**

with **Graham Burchell and Jennie  
Osborne.**

Tea/coffee and biscuits included.

At the coffee lounge, Little Theatre in St  
Marks Road, Torquay. Transport will be  
available from the Livermead Cliff Hotel,  
please see Festival notice board.

**EVENT**

**MEET THE COMMITTEE:**

**2.15pm onwards**

After last year's successful and construc-  
tive coffee break with the Committee  
at the Livermead Cliff Hotel, members will  
again be available in the bar after lunch  
(from 2.00pm) to talk with the poets,  
audiences, complainers, praisers, and any  
others who feel they'd like to air their  
opinions.

**All comments welcome.**

A big thank you to everyone who  
became a Friend of the Festival  
last year. You enabled us to run a  
successful Festival to which many  
people, poets and readers, came.

The new website was a great  
success also, with more people  
than usual entering the  
competition and buying tickets  
through its portals.

But this year has, as usual, already  
presented some sobering  
financial realities. There has been  
a general rise in costs for running  
the Festival which doesn't help  
our desire to keep ticket prices as  
low as possible for you.

Over the years we have been very  
grateful to so many poetry  
enthusiasts who have become  
Friends of the Torbay Poetry  
Festival, and also the many  
others, both poets and audiences,  
who have worked together to  
contribute to the friendly  
atmosphere at each Festival.

## WORKSHOPS

10.00am - 12.30pm

Tickets £10.00

LIMITED TO 12 PEOPLE

-oOo-

Friday 20th October

Led by WENDY FRENCH.

### The Importance of Place in our Lives.

Stanley Kunitz: 'Our body is a canvas that absorbs the world'. We will think and write about an important place in our life and how we fit into the landscape metaphorically or physically. After a couple of exercises we will write our own poem based on experience.

-oOo-

Saturday 21st October

Led by KATHY MILES

### Writing in Other Voices

How do we write in a narrative voice that is not human? A workshop that explores zoomorphic and anthropomorphic approaches to poetry, and the problems associated with writing 'out of the voice'.

-oOo-

Sunday 22nd October

Led by DANIELLE HOPE

### Stealing from Medicine and Science

Scientific and medical discovery can be a fount of inspiration. Emily Dickinson described the brain as *wider than the sky*. There are many similarities between poems and science and medicine. All involve observation. Come prepared to have fun.

## DAILY EVENTS Friday -Sunday

### OFF THE STALL

Fri - Sun 11.45am - 12.15pm

FREE EVENT

While on the bookstall, John and Brenda often wonder why a poet wrote a particular poem. Now poets are going to be 'Put on the Spot' and asked why. Though they might have agreed to be asked, they don't know which poem will be discussed. For poets taking part on the day, please see Festival notice board.

### OPEN MIC

12.30pm - 1.45pm

Chair: Brenda Hutchings.

An open mic session will take place on Friday, Saturday, Sunday in the Function Room. There's no competition element and poets will be limited to one eight-minute slot per Festival.

To take part, put your name in the box on the Book Table during the morning. At 11.30am nine names will be drawn and put on a list with a specific time slot.

The Hotel will provide a limited menu of pre-ordered light lunches which will be served at tables in the Function Room. This will allow poets to organise food without any interruption to the readings.

### REFRESHMENTS

Morning tea/coffee and biscuits will be served daily at approximately 11.15am.

Afternoon tea will be served around 4.00pm.

See individual events for other refreshments.

# Information:

**Accommodation:** The **Livermead Cliff Hotel** is offering rooms to all Festival visitors at a concessionary price. Contact 01803 299 666; or book on-line at [www.livermeadcliff.co.uk](http://www.livermeadcliff.co.uk). Two hundred yards away, is the **Capri B & B**, which again is offering their Festival Package of four nights (Thurs - Sun) at the reduced rate of £130pp (inc. breakfast). Their telephone number is 01803 293158. Book early to reserve a room and quote the Poetry Package to claim the discount. To find your own accommodation from the wide choice available in Torquay visit the website [www.englishriviera.co.uk](http://www.englishriviera.co.uk). Or ring 01803 211 211 (calls charged at local not national rates).

**The nearest railway station to all Festival events and accommodation: TORQUAY.**

**Festival Organiser:** Patricia Oxley, 6 The Mount, HigherFurzeham, Brixham, Devon TQ5 8QY, UK. 01803 851098.  
Please leave a message if out and we'll get back to you.

**Honorary President:** Danny Pyle.

## HONORARY PATRONS:

Danielle Hope  
Frances and Tony Morris  
Sheenagh Pugh

## PATRONS

European Instruments  
(Oxford)

## SPONSORS

*Acumen Literary Journal*  
AC Print (Paignton)  
Anonymous (Various)  
Arts Council England  
Estate of J.D. Beugger  
Rew Hotels

# ORDER FORM

| I would like to order the following tickets:  | price  | qty | total |
|---|--------|-----|-------|
| <b>READINGS AND EVENTS</b>  |        |     |       |
| Event: Poets' Laureate. Thurs. 19th Oct.  | £10.00 |     |       |
| Reading: J. Johnson, G. Burchell. Fri. 20th Oct.  | £4.00  |     |       |
| Reading: Ann Gray. Fri. 20th Oct.   | £4.00  |     |       |
| Reading: M. Schneider, A. Paterson. Fri. 20th Oct.  | £5.00  |     |       |
| Reading: Kathy Miles, M. Barnard. Fri. 20th Oct.  | £5.00  |     |       |
| Reading: D, Forbes, M. Khalvati. Fri. 20th Oct.   | £10.00 |     |       |
| Event: Poems of Charles Causley. Sat. 21st Oct.   | £5.00  |     |       |
| Reading: M. Butt, W. Oxley. Sat. 21st Oct.  | £5.00  |     |       |
| Reading: Mim Darlington. Sat. 21st Oct.   | £4.00  |     |       |
| Event: Medieval Women. Sun. 22nd Oct.   | £4.00  |     |       |
| Reading: P. Osada, S. Acharya. Sun. 22nd Oct.   | £5.00  |     |       |
| Reading: Penelope Shuttle. Sun. 22nd Oct.   | £5.00  |     |       |
| Reading: Isabel Bermudez. Sun. 22nd Oct.  | £4.00  |     |       |
| Event: The Brontës: C. Pinney. Sun. 22nd Oct.   | £10.00 |     |       |
| Event: Teignmouth Poets: Mon. 23rd Oct.   | £6.00  |     |       |
| <b>WORKSHOPS</b>  |        |     |       |
| Wendy French (12 places) Fri. 20th Oct.   | £10.00 |     |       |
| Kathy Miles (12 places) Sat. 21st Oct.  | £10.00 |     |       |
| Danielle Hope (12 places) Sun. 22nd Oct.  | £10.00 |     |       |
| <b>FESTIVAL SUPPER &amp; READING</b>  |        |     |       |
| Martyn Crucefix Sat. 21st Oct.  | £35.00 |     |       |
| Reading only  | £7.50  |     |       |
| <b>FREE EVENTS</b>  |        |     |       |
| Reading at ACE Thurs. 19th Oct.   | Free   |     |       |
| Torbay Poetry Comp. Results Sat. 21st Oct.  | Free   |     |       |
| Festival Challenge Sun. 22nd Oct.   | Free   |     |       |
| Meet the Committee Mon. 23rd Oct.   | Free   |     |       |
| Off the Stall Daily Fri. - Sun.   | Free   |     |       |
| Open Mic Daily Fri. - Sun.  | Free   |     |       |
| <b>FESTIVAL SPECIAL OFFER</b>   |        |     |       |
| Weekend Ticket: to include all 16 readings and events but no workshops nor the Festival Supper. | £83.00 |     |       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |        |     |       |

I would like the vegetarian option at the Festival Supper (Please tick)

Please make cheques payable to **TORBAY POETRY**. Sorry no credit card facilities.  
Credit card bookings on line at [www.torbaypoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.torbaypoetryfestival.co.uk)

Send to Torbay Poetry Festival, 6 The Mount, Higher Furzeham, Brixham, Devon TQ5 8QY UK  
Allow 5 days for return of tickets. Last minute advance bookings will be reserved at venue to be collected on arrival at event. Alternative to choice when booking workshops would be appreciated. If events are over-subscribed, all monies will be returned.

PLEASE FILL IN NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE SLIP FOR TICKETS OR SEND S.A.E.

PLEASE SEND TICKETS TO: Name .....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Signed..... Date .....