

# Torbay Festival of *Poetry*



**Thursday 18th - Monday 22nd October  
2018**

# Welcome to the

## Torbay Festival of *Poetry*

Welcome to this year's Torbay Festival of Poetry with a new-looking programme to introduce our exciting guest poets.

Many poets have come to Torbay to find inspiration and this year we are celebrating their faith in the beautiful environment by introducing their poetry. This covers the light-hearted, the funny and the serious, including poems set to music. As usual, our popular Thursday evening party-style opening event is at the atmospheric Torre Abbey where the Festival organiser will compère this wide-ranging poetic feast washed down with liquid refreshments.

Since the Festival opened in 2001, Torbay has seen a growth of small poetry groups, but all reading and writing poems from all ages. Many of these poetry lovers like to attend our workshops, and events, especially those which have a community feel to them. 'The Hill' Event on Saturday morning explores a geographical area in many forms, while Sunday introduces a blind poet who brings along his personal 'voice Hazel' to read the poems he hasn't remembered. He's hoping to meet other visually-impaired people from the Bay and introduce them to Hazel. Galmpton Primary School is welcoming two poets to run a workshop on Thursday morning and hopefully will bring one or two of their own budding poets to read their work on the Friday morning. Do come and support them as these are the poets of the future.

With twenty five events, poetry will fill the weekend. As well as listening to readings, learn more about writing poetry at workshops, listen to poets talking about their craft, meet the poets and, above all, ask questions of them. There is much variety in this year's programme. The subject for the Festival Challenge will be announced at the Thursday evening event.

Visitors to the Festival enjoy the convivial atmosphere of the Livermead Cliff Hotel, with its stunning views of the sea and of Torquay. This is a long weekend which celebrates all things poetic in the heart of beautiful Torbay: sea, palm trees, light ... and inspiration!

The Festival's aim of concentrating a packed schedule of events, mainly in one comfortable venue, has established an inspiring literary weekend by the sea with the added advantage of the beautiful English Riviera as a backdrop. Torbay is famous for sunshine ... it also has a reputation for poetry.

**WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THURSDAY AND MONDAY, ALL EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LIVERMEAD CLIFF HOTEL, SEA FRONT, TORQUAY, TQ2 6RO.**  
**Free car parking is available at the hotel and comprehensive disabled access.**

# Thursday 18 October

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION GROUP

The Access to Community Education Group of Brixham College helps disabled people to fulfill their capability. They thoroughly enjoy our yearly visit where they often join in the poetry readings. This year **ALEC TAYLOR** and **WILLIAM OXLEY** represent the Festival.

**Ace Group, Brixham Community College, Westover Close, Brixham TQ5 9HF**

**10.45am - 12.00 noon FREE EVENT**

## BLUE PLAQUE BARDS

Over the years, many poets have travelled to the environs of the English Riviera in search of inspiration, quiet and beautiful natural scenery. They don't all have a blue plaque on the historical places they lived (though many do) but we in Torbay keep their memories alive. This evening some poems, and the occasional prose piece, will be read by local poets. So sit back and enjoy some serious poetry, familiar poetry and some humorous poetry introduced by the Festival Organiser, Patricia Oxley.

## GUESS WHO?



**Torre Abbey, The King's Drive, Torquay, TQ2 5JE,  
7.30 - 9.30pm. Tickets £10.00 to include wine and nibbles.**

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



Galampton  
Primary School

## READING

**SUSAN TAYLOR/SIMON WILLIAMS**

**10.15 - 11.15am**

**Tickets: £6.00**

**including coffee and biscuits.**



**Plus the best young poets from Galampton Primary School.**

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

**OPEN MIC 12.30 - 1.45pm. FREE**

**for details see page 11**

## READING

**JACQUELINE SAPHRA**

**2.15 - 2.45pm**

**Short-listed for this year's TS Eliot Prize.**

**Tickets: £5.00**



'My mother was a fine confectioner. We'd come upon her sponges,  
softly decomposing under sweaters in a drawer . . .'  
from *'All my Mad Mothers'*

## READING

**SUSAN UTTING and ANTONY MAIR**

**3.00 - 4.00pm**

**Tickets: £6.00 including tea and shortbread biscuits**



"Fresh' is the word for outside air come in,  
but she doesn't use it – silence is her way,  
breath her language.'

from *'Half the Human Race'*

"You've no idea of the weeks to come – of  
Flanders,  
Leo's death, grief's black dog.'

from *'The Great Uncle I Never Knew'*



## READING

**DENISE McSHEEHY and ANDREW GEARY**

5.00 - 6.00pm

Tickets: £6.00



'You wake up and it's can't do.  
Each day you remember less  
forget more ...'

from *'The Plate Spinner'*

'Tomorrow we face more questions from  
the neighbours,  
the cutlery of their polite inquisitions  
as they pick away at us ...'

from *'A Shoal of Powan?'*



## THE FRIDAY READING

**JAMES HARPUR and JOHN F. DEANE**

8.00 - 9.30pm

Tickets: £12.00 including wine



'From under lily pads a live brand shot,  
A glowing ember, a fish burning deep carrot  
That flowed through the gloom...'

from *'A Vision of Comets'*

' ... I am eating  
night and grief in the sweet-bitter flesh  
of blueberries,

from *'New and Collected Poems'*



## EVENT

**ANGELA FRANCE presents THE HILL**

10.00 - 11.15pm.

Tickets: £7.50 including coffee and biscuits



*The Hill* is a remarkable sequence of poems that leads us up the winding footpaths of Leckhampton Hill near Cheltenham. Under our feet are fossils and flora, bones and the relics of quarrying, capturing the sense of place, weaving the entrancing voices of the Hill, its walkers and inhabitants. We encounter ghosts, foxes and ancient kings. We meet the protestors who, stood up for their rambling rights when a landowner tried to enclose the Hill they had walked for generations. A multimedia event with poems, slides and recordings.

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

**OPEN MIC 12.30 - 1.45pm. FREE**

**for details see page 11**



## READING

**RACHAEL CLYNE**

**2.15 - 2.45pm**

**Tickets: £5.00**

‘ ... sad to leave.

I try to pack full moonrise

with my jumpers... ’

from *‘Singing at the Bone Tree’*

## READING



**JOHN GODFREY and CHERYL PEARSON**

**3.00 - 4.00pm**

**Tickets: £6.00 including tea and shortbread biscuits**



‘And if you asked me what I used to do I’d  
claim  
that I was once a magician.’

from *‘The Man on Crewe Station’*

‘You may not realise this, but a girl  
is in constant conflict with herself.  
A girl is held together  
by her own gravity.’

from *‘Oysterlight’*

## TORBAY OPEN POETRY COMPETITION RESULTS

**Hosted by this year’s judge: DANIELLE HOPE**

**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.



# Saturday 20 October

## WINE AND SUPPER

with MATT HARVEY

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 old friends or new acquaintances at the Festival Supper. This year's speaker is Matt Harvey, writer, poet, enemy of all that's difficult and upsetting, Matt's way with words has taken him from Totnes to the Wimbledon Tennis Championships via Saturday Live.



*'to see a hot tub in a council skip  
and heaven in a bald tyre  
behold infinity in your local tip  
and eternity in some frayed electrical wire'*

from *'Where Earwigs Dare'*

# Sunday 21 October

WORKSHOPS with Victoria Field  
and Anne-Marie Fyfe.

## READING WITH Q & A SESSION

**GILES TURNBULL with HAZEL**

10.00 - 11.15pm.

**Tickets: £7.50 including coffee and biscuits**



**GILES TURNBULL WRITES:** 'Poets differ, some reading from memory, others from a copy of their book. A lot of blind people have, by necessity, fantastic memories; sadly I am not one of them! Because I can't read from a printed copy, it leaves me in a tricky place. I took my tablet computer, three external speakers and, using the same screen reader voice that lets me read *Acumen*, I alternated poems that I had memorised with ones read by Hazel, my screen reader's voice. The audience responded very well to Hazel's poems. I'd written a short bit of text for Hazel to read after her last poem, which I didn't plan on using, but so many people came up to talk to me about Hazel (and my blindness and my poetry) at the interval that I decided to let Hazel read her piece, and she got such a round of applause at the end I was thrilled!'

# Sunday 21 October

**ON THE SPOT 11.45am - 12.15pm. FREE**  
**OPEN MIC 12.30 - 1.45pm. FREE**  
for details see page 11



## READING

**JANE DRAYCOTT**

**2.15 - 2.45pm**

**Tickets: £5.00**

'Outside our block of flats the moon  
has planted itself like a searchlight  
flooding in through our Indian curtains ...'

New poem

## READING



**BEN BANYARD and VICKI FEAVER**

**3.00 - 4.00pm**

**Tickets: £6.00 including tea and shortbread biscuits**

'...you couldn't take a pushchair trekking  
the Andes.

I spend fortnights splashing in the pool  
eating and drinking all-inclusively ...'

from 'Think of the Children'



'I don't know where you are  
who loved all the things I love  
and who I remember...'

from 'I Want! I Want!'

## FESTIVAL CHALLENGE

**4.15pm - 5.00pm for reading poems**

**Results at approx. 6.00pm. FREE EVENT**

Enter your poem on this year's theme, which will be announced on Thursday at Torre Abbey (and then displayed on the Festival noticeboard in the hotel), for just one pound, then read it at our impromptu competition. Small prizes, but large applause!

Chaired by Danielle Hope / David Perman





## READING

**ANN DRYSDALE**

**5.15 - 5.45pm**

**Tickets: £5.00**

'Sooner or later, in the great scheme of things,  
Women are ambushed by their transformation  
Into their own mothers ...'

*from Quaintness and Other Offences'*

## FESTIVAL CHALLENGE RESULTS

**Announced at 6.00pm followed by reading of winning poem (s)**

## DANNY PYLE MEMORIAL COMPETITION.

**JOHN MILES**

**announces his selection with winning poems being read.**

**7.30 - 8.00pm free event**

## THE SUNDAY READING



## The Voyage Out: Poetry, Prose, Music & Memoir

**with ANNE MARIE FYFE**

Poet **ANNE-MARIE FYFE** presents readings, talk and music on writers and the sea, from great novelists, travel-writers and poets of the past, to the constant, recurring presence of the sea in her first five collections of poetry. It will include new work from her current writing/travel project combining poetry and prose memories of growing up by the sea in her home town of Cushendall. She also includes other coastal locations she's experienced on her travels. With sea-music by Cahal Dallat (accordion/mandolin/flute).

**8.30 - 9.30pm**

**Tickets £12.00 including wine.**

## EVENT

### TORBAY'S COMMUNITY OF POETS

Organisers of Torbay's various poetry groups will be invited to send representatives to read their own poems and at least one from the era when poems were learnt off by heart. Members of various 'Memory Cafes' will also be invited to participate.

Introduced by **JOHN & SUZY MILES**

**10.30 - 11.45am.**

#### FREE EVENT

coffee and biscuits from 10.00am

The Coffee Lounge, Little Theatre,  
St Marks Road, Torquay.

Transport available from Livermead  
Cliff Hotel, please see Festival  
notice board

#### MEET THE COMMITTEE:

**2.15pm onwards**

After last year's successful and constructive coffee break with the Committee at the Livermead Cliff Hotel, members will again be available in the bar (from 2.00pm) to talk with the poets, audiences, complainers, praisers, and any others who feel they'd like to get a word in.

**All comments welcome.**

## ALL WORKSHOPS

**10.00am - 12.30pm**

**Tickets £12.50**

**LIMITED TO 12 PEOPLE**

**-oOo-**

**Friday 19th October**

### MEMORY AND IMAGINATION

Some of the most daring and treasured poems arise when memory and imagination work as one. This workshop will begin with Adam and Eve and a monkey in hot water and deliver a feast of dazzling new work.

**Led by SUE BOYLE**

**-oOo-**

**Saturday 20th October**

### INVITATIONS & REQUESTS

We look at poems that invite, request, instruct, entreat, beseech...precise and detailed sorts of action, producing effective and engaging poetry. How might we use such techniques to tell our own stories, share our own ideas and feelings?

**Led by SUSAN UTTING**

**-oOo-**

**Sunday 21st October (2 workshops)**

### POET AS PILGRIM

We will explore how elements of pilgrimage relate to both the reading and writing of poems, read some contemporary poems and then write in response. No experience necessary.

**Led by VICTORIA FIELD**

**-oOo-**

### EDGE OF THE DEPTHS

Discover the fascination of raging seas, winds & undercurrents, tidal pull, hidden depths, unknown treasures, & uncertain homecomings; of the sense (literal, metaphorical, emotional...) of stepping off terra firma into the unknown.

**Led by ANNE-MARIE FYFE**

## ON THE SPOT

Fri - Sun 11.45am - 12.15pm

### FREE EVENT

While on the bookstall, John and Brenda often wondered why a poet wrote a particular poem. Now poets are going to be 'Put on the Spot' and asked why, with no previous knowledge of which poem will be chosen. For poets taking part, please see Festival notice board.

## OPEN MIC

12.30pm - 1.45pm

Chair: Brenda Hutchings.

An open mic session takes place on Fri, Sat and Sun, in the Function Room. Poets 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.

**Accommodation:** The **Livermead Cliff Hotel** is offering rooms to 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 is offering their Festival Package of four nights (Thurs - Sun) at the reduced rate of £130pp. 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).

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

**Festival Organiser:** Patricia Oxley, 6 The Mount, Higher Furzeham, Brixham, Devon TQ5 8QY, UK  
T: 01803 851098.

---

## 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  
Keith McFarlane  
Rew Hotels

# ORDER FORM

I would like to order the following tickets:	price	qty	total
<b>READINGS AND EVENTS:</b>			
Event: Blue Plaque Bards Thurs. 18th Oct	£10.00		
Reading: Susan & Simon + young poets Fri.19th Oct	£6.00		
Reading: Jacqueline Saphra Fri.19th Oct.	£5.00		
Reading: Susan Utting & Antony Mair Fri. 19th Oct.	£6.00		
Reading: D. McSheehy & A Geary Fri.19th Oct	£6.00		
The Friday Reading: J.Harpur & J.Deane Fri. 19th Oct	£12.00		
Event: The Hill, Angela France: Sat. 20th Oct.	£7.50		
Reading: Rachael Clyne Sat. 20th Oct.	£5.00		
Reading: J. Godfrey & C. Pearson Sat. 20th Oct.	£6.00		
Reading & Q & A: CharlesTurnbull Sun. 21st Oct.	£7.50		
Reading: Jane Draycott Sun. 21st Oct.	£5.00		
Reading: Ben Banyard & Vicki Feaver Sun. 21st Oct.	£6.00		
Reading: Ann Drysdale Sun. 21st Oct.	£5.00		
The Sunday Reading: Anne-Marie Fyfe Sun.21st Oct.	£12.00		
<b>WORKSHOPS</b>			
Sue Boyle (12 places) Fri. 19th Oct.	£12.50		
Susan Utting (12 places) Sat. 20th Oct.	£12.50		
Victoria Field (12 places) Sun. 21st Oct.	£12.50		
Anne-Marie Fyfe (12 places) Sun. 21st Oct.	£12.50		
<b>FESTIVAL SUPPER &amp; READING</b>			
Matt Harvey Sat.20th Oct.	£35.00		
Reading only	£7.50		
<b>FREE EVENTS</b>			
Reading at ACE Thurs. 18th Oct.	Free		
Torbay Poetry Comp. Results Sat.20th Oct.	Free		
Festival Challenge Sun. 21st Oct.	Free		
Torbay's Community of Poets Mon. 22nd Oct.	Free		
Meet the Committee Mon. 22nd	Free		
On The Spot Daily Fri - Sun	Free		
Open Mic Daily Fri - Sun	Free		
<b>FESTIVAL SPECIAL OFFER</b>			
Weekend Ticket: to include all readings and events but no workshops nor the Festival Supper.	£90.00		

## TOTAL

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

Please make cheques payable to **TORBAY POETRY**.

Credit card bookings on line at [www.torbaypoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.torbaypoetryfestival.co.uk)

Send form 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 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 .....