

18-25 SEPTEMBER 2021

# POETRY FESTIVAL

**INSPIRE POETRY FESTIVAL 2021**  
IN PERSON, IN LIBRARIES, ONLINE  
**PERFORMANCES EXHIBITIONS READINGS**  
**WORKSHOPS DAILY WRITING POETRY TAKEOVER**



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

delivered by



**Inspire**  
Culture | Learning | Libraries

WELCOME  
TO  
**INSPIRE  
POETRY  
FESTIVAL  
2021**  
WE'RE BACK!

The Inspire Poetry Festival returns in 2021 and we're taking a thoroughly 21<sup>st</sup> century approach, offering both in person and online readings, workshops, exhibitions and special events.

Our two headline stars are both talented musicians as well as poets, and have three T.S. Eliot prizes between them: Edinburgh-based **Don Paterson** will travel southwards to Southwell Library, where many poetry-lovers will remember his last hugely popular visit over a decade ago, while **Roger Robinson** will beam in live to an audience at West Bridgford Library and many online besides, via Zoom.

Local favourite **Leanne Moden** leads a daily online hour of creativity to help hone your poetry practice – drop in or stay for the week – and **Jonathan Davidson** hosts an online workshop about poetry out loud, sharing insights into listening and speaking for greater enjoyment and understanding.

A live Showcase by **Paper Crane Poets** at Beeston Library brings you the best of this thriving poetry community, and we celebrate the launch of ***Coal in the Blood***, a new anthology of poetry and anecdotes about the East Midlands' coal mining heritage, with an afternoon of readings and music at Mansfield Central Library.

**P** **O** **E** **T** **R**  
**F** **E** **S** **T** **I** **V**

We launch a touring exhibition celebrating our fascinating **Poetry Place** workshops, led by and including new poems from **Sue Dymoke**, and continue the tour of our wonderful **Voices** exhibition. The annual Poetry Takeover has a 'Lost Words' theme celebrating dialects – so be prepared to throw your very best local and regional words into our butterfly nets ready for the brilliant **Andrew Graves** to make them into a special Nottinghamshire poem.

We're also taking this opportunity to remind you about the full range of online poetry readings and interviews we've amassed since March last year, including a month's worth of daily poems by **Henry Normal**, who has also hosted a series of brilliant online chats and readings with Nottinghamshire's finest poets- all online and available to watch at your leisure.

We look forward to once again sharing the best of poetry with audiences around the county and beyond.



**Tickets for events can be booked:**

**Online:** [inspireculture.org.uk/poetry-festival](https://inspireculture.org.uk/poetry-festival)

**By phone via Ask Inspire:** 01623 677 200

**Or in person at any of the Festival libraries.**

Tickets are non-refundable except where an event is cancelled. Changes to programme will be advertised online.

**COVID statement - If you or anyone you live with/in your support bubble displays symptoms associated with Covid-19, or if you are required to self-isolate following Government guidance, please do not attend events or visit the library. Under these circumstances, please call or email ASK Inspire to request a refund. We just ask that you give us as much notice as possible.**

**Your safety is important to us. Please consult the website for the most up to date advice on attending events.**

#### Access information


All our festival venues are accessible to wheelchair users, and full access details on all venues is available on request from Ask Inspire. Please notify us on booking if you require a wheelchair space or have any specific access needs.


Email: [ask@inspireculture.org.uk](mailto:ask@inspireculture.org.uk)

Phone: 01623 677 200.

A large print version of this brochure is available on request.

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 [inspireculture.org.uk](https://inspireculture.org.uk)



IN  
PERSON

ONLINE

## POETRY PLACE: THE EXHIBITION

**Saturday 18 September – Sunday 31 October**  
**Mansfield Central Library**  
**Free**

Earlier this year, poet Sue Dymoke led a series of online workshops with local people to create poetry inspired by old photographs of the Sherwood Forest area from Inspire Picture Archive. See the fascinating results in this exhibition, which launches during Inspire Poetry Festival.

In partnership with the Miner2Major Landscape Partnership Scheme, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



Sue Dymoke, Photo: David Baird

**Poetry Place** will open at Worksop Library in mid-November and continue to tour Inspire libraries until 2023. For details, and to view the virtual exhibition from 18 September, visit [inspireculture.org.uk/poetryplace](https://inspireculture.org.uk/poetryplace)

IN  
PERSON

## POETRY PLACE: THE WORKSHOP

**Workshop: Saturday 25 September,**  
**11.15am – 12.15pm**  
**Feedback session: Saturday 9 October,**  
**11.15am – 12.15pm**  
**Edwinstowe Library**  
**Free**  
**Booking essential – places limited**  
**Adults**

Do you live in the Sherwood Forest area?  
 Do you write poetry, or are you keen to get started?

In this inspiring two-part workshop, led by acclaimed poet and educator Sue Dymoke, you'll use fascinating photography featuring the area from the Inspire Picture Archive as a starting point for your own poetry.

*A connection to, or interest in, the Sherwood Forest area is recommended for these workshops.*

For more details visit  
[inspireculture.org.uk/poetryplace](https://inspireculture.org.uk/poetryplace)

A printed anthology of the poems and photographs featured in the exhibition will be available online and distributed to Inspire libraries during Inspire Poetry Festival.

This exciting, **free** opportunity is part of the Miner2Major Landscape Partnership scheme, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, celebrating the diverse wildlife, important habitats and rich heritage of Sherwood Forest. You can find out more about the scheme by visiting [miner2major.org.uk](https://miner2major.org.uk)



IN  
PERSON

## COAL IN THE BLOOD: BOOK LAUNCH AND PERFORMANCE

Saturday 18 September, 2 – 3.30pm

Mansfield Central Library

Free

Booking essential

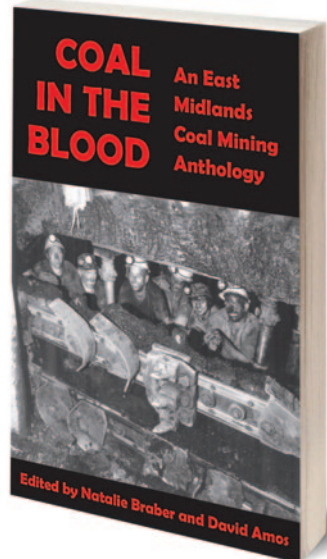
Editors David Amos and Natalie Braber host a celebratory launch event for *Coal in the Blood – An East Midlands Coal Mining Anthology* (Five Leaves). Join us to enjoy readings from this first collection of poems, short stories and anecdotes about the coal mining industry in the East Midlands.

At the peak of the industry just after the First World War, over a million people worked in the industry, with thousands more dependent on supplying the pits and those working there. Coal mining shaped our landscape and townscape and the lives of all of those who lived in the mining areas and the families of those who worked 'down pit'.

The collection includes sections on the East Midlands coalfield, working environment, mining disasters, minorities and migrants in the industry, strikes, rationalisation and closures and, finally, the legacy of the industry. It brings together writing from around the region, some by established writers such as Deborah Tyler-Bennett, John Harvey and, of course, D.H. Lawrence as well as other less well-known writers, including pitmen poets. Most of the material in the book has not been published before.



Photo by Chris Gilbert



Book cover pic courtesy The Coal Authority

 **Five Leaves  
Publications**

**ONLINE**

## **CREATIVITY BREAK with Leanne Moden**

**Monday 20 – Friday 24 September, 12 – 1PM**

**LIVE ON ZOOM**

**£5 per session / £20 for all five sessions**

**Booking essential**

**Adults (16+)**

Are you looking for ways to kick-start your creativity? Perhaps you'd like to try writing poetry for the first time, brush up on your skills, or try writing poetry again after an extended break? If you're keen for a new challenge, then join poet and workshop leader Leanne Moden to kick-start your creativity. These lunchtime workshops are all about learning by experimenting, trying new things and having fun with your writing. It's suitable for adults of all ages and abilities, from those just starting out on their writing journey to those who are already writing regularly. You can come to all five sessions across the week, or just one or two, it's up to you!

Photo by Lee Allen



ONLINE

## LISTEN CLOSELY: HEARING AND SPEAKING POETRY with Jonathan Davidson

Tuesday 21 September, 6.30 – 8pm

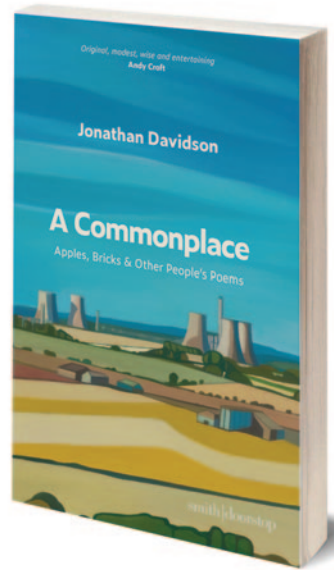
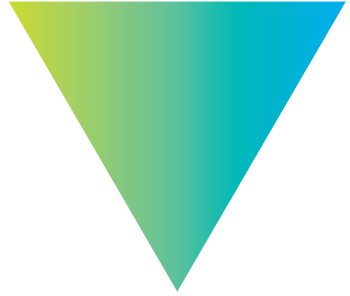
LIVE ON ZOOM

£7

Booking essential

Adults (16+)

Most of us hear poems before we read them; as children or perhaps at events. And many of us secretly enjoy speaking poems out loud; our own poems or ones we love by other people. This workshop will give participants a chance to find out what makes a poem good to hear and how to get the most out of time spent listening. As well as listening to great poems from across the ages, we'll also be road-testing them with our own voices (although this bit is optional!) and finding out what we get from poetry when we say the words ourselves. The workshop will be informal and fun and a great way to enjoy poetry as a listener and speaker.



As well as being a widely published poet, Jonathan Davidson has spent many years finding ways of 'releasing' poetry through performance and audio. He has adapted poetry for performance on BBC Radio and created a ground-breaking series of poetry-theatre pieces using poems from anthologies published by Bloodaxe Books. His latest book, *A Commonplace - Apples, Bricks & Other People's Poems* is a combination of his own poems alongside poems by others and with a commentary introducing the poems to readers.



# PAPER CRANE POETRY PERFORMANCE

Wednesday 22 September, 7.30 – 9pm  
**Beeston Library**  
 Booking essential  
 Free\*

Join Beeston Library's resident poetry collective for a fantastic evening of original spoken word live at the library. Combining humour, social commentary, beauty and truth, this selection of new writing and performance features a range of exciting local poets with something to say. It's the perfect way to enjoy a Wednesday evening!

\*Tickets to this showcase are free. Paper Crane Poets will hold a Pay What You Like collection after the event.



**PAPER CRANE WORKSHOPS** are held every first and third Tuesday of the month at Beeston Library. If you live, work or study in Beeston, and you're interested in joining the collective, please email [papercranePoets@gmail.com](mailto:papercranePoets@gmail.com) for all the info.





# VOICES



Photo Ben Harriott

## EXHIBITION VOICES AT INSPIRE POETRY FESTIVAL

Until Monday 27 September

Worksop Library

Free

*Voices* presents a thought-provoking collection of poetry created by and with people whose voices, for health, social or age-related reasons, may rarely be heard, combined with photography of those involved.

Poet, playwright and performer Ben Norris worked with four very different groups across Nottinghamshire to develop a body of poems that express their emotions, experiences and stories. The four groups included elderly people living with dementia, adults with learning disabilities, refugees, and people living with, or affected by, mental health issues.

The sessions, and individuals involved, were photographed by lens-based artist Ben Harriott, and the resulting works were curated into this inspiring exhibition.

With very special thanks to the groups involved: Bassetlaw Day Service, Worksop, Woodleigh Christian Care Home, Mansfield; Building Bridges, West Bridgford; and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum, Youth Project.

The exhibition can also be seen online:  
[inspireculture.org.uk/voices](https://inspireculture.org.uk/voices)

IN  
PERSON

ONLINE



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ENGLAND**





IN  
PERSON

## HEADLINE PERFORMANCE DON PATERSON

Friday 24 September, 7.30 – 9.15pm  
Southwell Library  
£10

One of the most highly acclaimed poets of his generation, Don Paterson makes a welcome return visit to Southwell to read from his numerous award-winning collections, and perhaps to throw in an aphorism or two...

Don Paterson was born in Dundee in 1963. He is the author of eight collections of poetry, three books of aphorism, and several books of criticism and poetic theory. His most recent collection is *Zonal* (Faber, 2020) a series of poems based on the first series of *The Twilight Zone*. His poetry has won many awards including two T.S. Eliot Prizes, all the Forward Prizes and a Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. He teaches at the University of St Andrews, where he is Professor of Poetry, and since 1997 he has been Poetry Editor at Picador Macmillan. He was awarded the OBE in 2008 and the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2010. For most of his working life he has also worked as a jazz musician and composer. He lives in Edinburgh.

*"I love the collection's minutely wrought originality and the way that even dismaying subjects – loneliness, insecurity, botched relationships – have hilarious side-effects."*

Kate Kellaway, The Guardian, on *Zonal*



IN  
PERSON

ONLINE

## HEADLINE PERFORMANCE ROGER ROBINSON ONLINE AND WATCH PARTY

Saturday 25 September . 7.30 – 8.45pm

Watch Party streaming to **West Bridgford Library** (LIMITED SPACES) and **ONLINE**

£8 Watch Party

£5 Online only

Booking essential

Adults (16+)

A multi-talented poet, writer, educator and musician, Roger Robinson's work has received numerous accolades and in 2019 he won both the T.S. Eliot Prize and the RSL Ondaatje Prize with his collection *A Portable Paradise*, which was praised by the judges for "finding in the bitterness of everyday experience continuing evidence of 'sweet, sweet life.'"

Join us at West Bridgford Library to watch Roger Robinson perform via a live-stream from his home **or** opt to watch the event online. Watch Party audience members will be able to put their questions to Roger from the library.

Roger Robinson has taught and performed worldwide and was chosen by Decibel as one of 50 writers who have influenced the Black British writing canon. He has been commissioned by The National Trust, London Open House, BBC, The National Portrait Gallery, V&A, INIVA, MK Gallery and Theatre Royal Stratford East, where he also was associate artist. He has toured extensively with the British Council and is a co-founder of both Spoke Lab and the international writing collective Malika's Kitchen. He is the lead vocalist and lyricist for King Midas Sound and has also recorded solo albums with Jahtari Records.

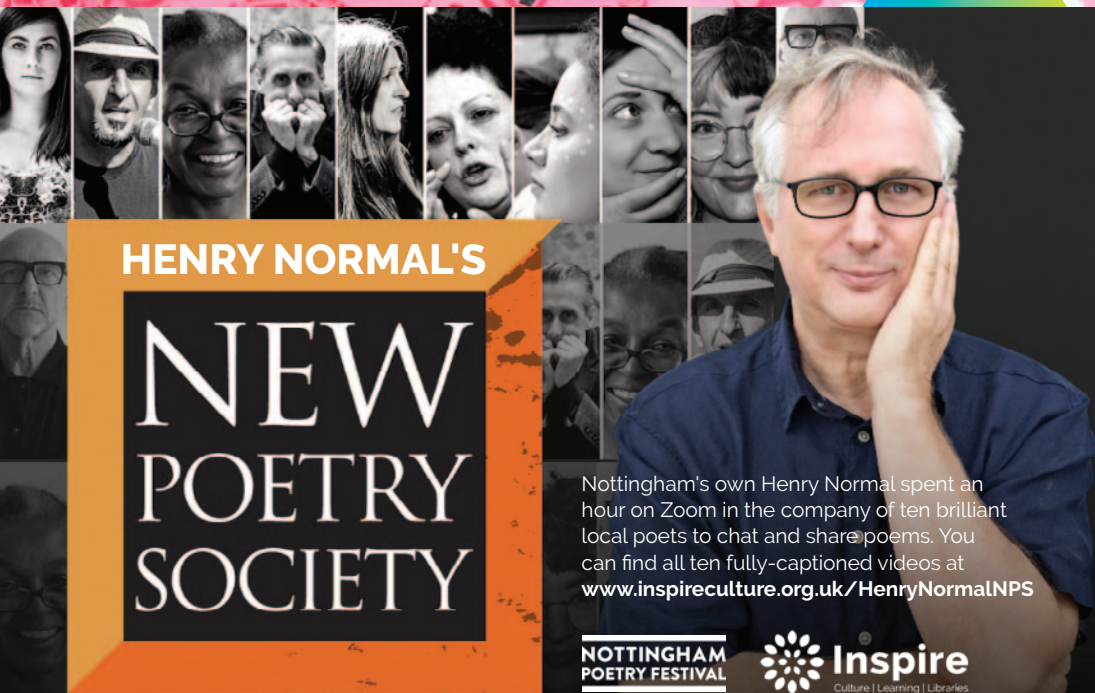

 IN  
PERSON

# POETRY TAKEOVER

Saturday 25 September, 11am - 3pm

All Poetry Festival Libraries: **Beeston, Mansfield, Southwell, West Bridgford, Worksop**  
Free

Fun poetry activities for everyone to enjoy, just turn up and have a go at our magnetic poetry boards and more! Look out for our Lost Words Collectors and be ready to fill their butterfly nets with your very best local and regional dialect words! You never know, you might see them turning up in Andrew Graves' specially-commissioned poem when it's launched later this year.



**HENRY NORMAL'S**

**NEW  
POETRY  
SOCIETY**

Nottingham's own Henry Normal spent an hour on Zoom in the company of ten brilliant local poets to chat and share poems. You can find all ten fully-captioned videos at [www.inspireculture.org.uk/HenryNormalNPS](http://www.inspireculture.org.uk/HenryNormalNPS)

**NOTTINGHAM  
POETRY FESTIVAL**

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**Book your place today!**

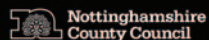


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# INSPIRE POETRY FESTIVAL 2021 AT A GLANCE

Online booking advised:  
[inspireculture.org.uk](https://inspireculture.org.uk)  
End times are approximate

Date	Time	Event	Type	Location	£	page
Until 27 Sep		<b>Voices</b>	Exhibition	Worksop Library	Free	9
Sat 18 Sep – Sun 31 Oct		<b>Poetry Place</b>	Exhibition	Mansfield Central Library and online	Free	4
Sat 18 Sept	2 – 3.30pm	<b>Coal in the Blood</b>	Performance	Mansfield Central Library	Free	5
Mon 20 – Fri 24 Sep	12 – 1pm	<b>Creativity Break</b>	Workshop	Online	£5 / £20	6
Tue 21 Sep	6.30 – 8pm	<b>Listen Closely</b>	Workshop	Online	£8	7
Wed 22 Sep	7.30 – 9.15pm	<b>Paper Crane</b>	Performance Showcase	Beeston Library	Free	8
Fri 24 Sep	7.30 – 9.15pm	<b>Don Paterson</b>	Performance	Southwell Library	£10	10-11
Sat 25 Sep	11am – 3pm	<b>Poetry Takeover</b>	Community	All Poetry Festival libraries	Free	14
Sat 25 Sep & Sat 9 Oct	11.15am – 12.15pm	<b>Poetry Place</b>	Workshop	Edwinstowe Library	Free	4
Sat 25 Sep	7.30 – 9pm	<b>Roger Robinson</b>	Performance	West Bridgford Library	£8 / £5	12-13

## THE LIBRARIES

### Beeston Library

Foster Ave, Beeston,  
Nottingham  
NG9 1AE

### Edwinstowe Library

4 High St, Edwinstowe,  
Mansfield  
NG21 9QS

### Mansfield Central Library

Four Seasons Centre,  
W Gate, Mansfield  
NG18 1NH

### Southwell Library

The Bramley Centre,  
King St, Southwell  
NG25 0EH

### West Bridgford Library

Bridgford Rd, West Bridgford,  
Nottingham  
NG2 6AT

### Worksop Library

Memorial Ave,  
Worksop  
S80 2BP