

INSPIRE POETRY FESTIVAL 2018

TUESDAY 25 - SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

PERFORMANCES
READINGS
WORKSHOPS
FILM
POETRY TAKEOVER



WELCOME TO THE INSPIRE POETRY FESTIVAL 2018

BRINGING POETRY
TO SOUTHWELL,
WEST BRIDGFORD,
MANSFIELD CENTRAL,
WORKSOP AND
BEESTON LIBRARIES
AND THE OLD LIBRARY
MANSFIELD

The festival is back, with two new venues and a new slot in the calendar, but there's no change to our mission: to bring great poets and wonderful poetry to Inspire libraries across the county.

From prize-winning slam and spoken-word artists **Vanessa Kisuule** and **Ben Norris** to well-established poetic voices including **Jo Bell**, **Maura Dooley** and **Kei Miller**, the festival celebrates poetry in all its forms, with a programme built on quality and variety for audiences of all ages. A strong local flavour is in evidence – don't miss the brilliant **Andrew Graves** and up-and-coming stars **Georgina Wilding** and **Raphael Blake** – and we have stand-up comic verse provided by rebellious sixty-year-olds, **The Glummer Twins**.

There's a range of workshops on offer for both readers and writers – who wouldn't want to learn How to be a Poet with **Jo Bell**?! – and an opportunity to benefit from One to One sessions with expert coach and poet **Cathy Grindrod**.

With dramatic performances, engaging workshops, a screening of *Dead Poets Society*, a special translations event, the ever-popular Afternoon Tea in Southwell and a Poetry Takeover on the last day of the festival, Inspire is diving into five days of full-on poetry immersion! Come on in – the words are lovely.

BOOKING

Tickets for events can be booked online, and by phone or in person at the individual libraries. For full booking and venue information please see page 15.



INTRODUCING THE VOICES PROJECT

This year our poet in residence is writer and actor **Ben Norris**. As well as reading at The Old Library, Mansfield (27 September) Ben will be working with groups from local communities to create a poem or collection of poems which will be celebrated with a launch later in the year. The groups' members will be people whose voices, for health, social or age-related reasons, are rarely heard. The poetry they create with Ben will give voice to their experiences and thoughts in a new work.

Community Events

Local writers and community groups will present some of their own work at Southwell Library during and after the festival. Not all of these events can be booked online; please see individual listings for full details.



nottslibraries #inspirepofest

A large print version of this brochure is available on the website, and can be made available at the libraries.

www.inspireculture.org.uk

WORKSHOP

**POETRY
PICK-ME-UP**

MANSFIELD CENTRAL LIBRARY

10.30am – 12.30pm

£5

Booking advised

Always fancied having a go at writing your own poems, or already writing and wanting to do more? In this friendly, supportive workshop led by writer Cathy Grindrod, we will read, write and share poetry, and talk about where you might go with your poetry writing from here.

WORKSHOP

**GETTING INTO
POETRY**

WORKSOP LIBRARY

2 – 4pm

£4

Booking essential

New to poetry? Mystified? Interested, but don't know where to start? Or already hooked?


In this Poetry Reading Workshop, we will have fun looking at a range of poems – approaching them in different ways - and will share our responses and experiences. Led by writer Cathy Grindrod.

"...at the most basic level, poetry is important because it makes us think, it opens us up to wonder and the sometimes astonishing possibilities of language. It is, in its subtle yet powerful way, a discipline for re-engaging with a world we take too much for granted."

John Burnside, *Daily Telegraph*



Cathy Grindrod is a widely-published East Midlands writer and former Derbyshire Poet Laureate, and is also an experienced facilitator of poetry reading and writing workshops. She specialises in writing for wellbeing and is a writer coach and mentor.



*“Jo Bell is one of
the most exciting
poets now writing
and no time is
wasted in the
company of her
work.”*

Carol Ann Duffy

WORKSHOP

**HOW TO BE A POET
WITH JO BELL**

WEST BRIDGFORD LIBRARY

2.30 – 5pm

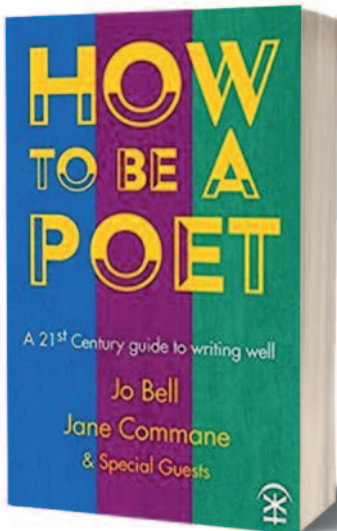
£10

Booking essential**Adults**

Referring to her book of the same name, Jo Bell leads a session for poets of any level who are serious about their writing. Through exercises and discussion, this workshop will delve into the challenges and realities of writing poetry, with the aim of helping participants become the best poets they can be.

"How to be a Poet is a manifesto of sorts. It is an exploration, both practically and creatively, of what it is to write poems, read poems, share poems and publish poetry. It is a guide to writing well, and aims to be bold and upfront about the realities of writing poetry and being a poet in the 21st century. It contains advice, but also a healthy dose of myth-busting, plenty of challenging ideas and some thought-provoking proposals that are designed to stretch both new and more experienced writers of poetry."

Jo Bell and Jane Commene, co-authors



"Witty, sexy and deft, Jo Bell's verse has an easy charm that hides a sometimes painful honesty... Kith is a wonderful collection." Stuart Maconie

PERFORMANCE

JO BELL

WEST BRIDGFORD LIBRARY

7.30pm

£10 / £8

Booking strongly advised**Licensed bar****Under 18s to be accompanied by an adult**

Jo Bell was born in Sheffield and grew up on the fringes of the Derbyshire Peak District. A winner of the Charles Causley Prize, the Manchester Cathedral Prize and the Saboteur Award, she was the first Canal Laureate for the UK. Her latest book is *Kith* (Nine Arches Press), other books include *52: Write a Poem a Week* and *How to be a Poet*. She has been commissioned by the National Trust, Canal and River Trust, Stratford Poetry Festival and Glastonbury Festival and has written for *Heritage* magazine and *Country Walking*. She is a tutor for The Poetry School, Poetry Society and Arvon Foundation and has appeared on BBC Radio 4 and 6 Music Live. Jo was awarded an honorary doctorate for services to poetry in 2015. She will be familiar to audiences as a poet featured in the current Nationwide TV adverts.



FILM
DEAD POETS SOCIETY (PG)
MANSFIELD CENTRAL LIBRARY
2pm
£2

The chance to revisit the 80s favourite that ignited an interest in the wonder of poetry for many.

Set in an exclusive boys' preparatory school in 1959, a newly appointed English teacher uses unconventional techniques to inspire his students to look at poetry with a different perspective. Poetry, he says, is about, 'sucking marrow from the bones of life.' Watch the wonderful Robin Williams at his finest on the library's big screen, and enjoy poetry from Byron, Frost, Whitman and more.



PERFORMANCE
LIVE AT THE POETRY CAFÉ:
JO BELL AND
GEORGINA
WILDING
WORKSOP LIBRARY
6.30pm
£5
Booking advised
Licensed bar
Under 18s to be accompanied
by an adult

Join us for wonderful words live at the Poetry Café! What better way to enjoy the wit and wisdom of two brilliant poets than with refreshments?



Poet, writer and performer **Jo Bell** is a 'unique force' in poetry – she was the director of the UK's National Poetry Day, and the first-ever Canal Laureate. Her poem *The Currency of Kindness* features on the Nationwide TV adverts. See page 5 to read more about Jo.

Georgina Wilding is Nottingham born and bred, and the city's first Young Poet Laureate 2017/18. She has written and performed for radio and TV and has toured her poetry in the UK and Germany. A former member of Mouthy Poets, she is the founding editor of Nottingham publishing house Mud Press.

Includes the opportunity for three poets to take to the stage in the open mic.

"We didn't just read poetry, we let it drip from our tongues like honey."

Dead Poets Society

BOOK ONLINE
INSPIRE.CULTURE.ORG.UK
/POETRY-FESTIVAL

PERFORMANCE

**WORD! WITH
VANESSA KISUULE
AND GUESTS
PLUS OPEN MIC**

BEESTON LIBRARY

7pm

£7 / £5

Booking strongly advised

Licensed bar

Under 18s to be accompanied by an adult

WORD! – the longest running poetry night in the Midlands – returns to Beeston Library for this very special festival edition, featuring the mighty Vanessa Kisuule. Hear her read from her latest spellbinding collection, *Recipe for Sorcery*, along with guest poets. To perform on the open mic, email compere and WORD! organiser, Lydia Towsey in advance via secretagentartist@hotmail.com. Some spots will also be available on the night.

Vanessa Kisuule has won numerous slam titles and featured everywhere from the Southbank Centre, RADA and Radio 4's Woman's Hour to The Guardian, Sky TV and Blue Peter... Lauded by her peers her performance credits include Glastonbury, Royal Albert Hall, The British Library and internationally.

WORD! is supported by Arts Council England.

"The main poet I read and think... I wish I'd written that."

Hollie McNish

"One of the most powerful performers of her generation."

Joelle Taylor,
The Poetry Society



BOOK ONLINE
INSPIRE CULTURE.ORG.UK
/POETRY-FESTIVAL



Raphael Blake



Georgina Wilding

LIVE AT THE OLD LIBRARY
**BEN NORRIS,
RAPHAEL BLAKE
AND GEORGINA
WILDING**

THE OLD LIBRARY, LEEMING
STREET, MANSFIELD

7.30pm

£6 / £4

Booking advised

A special performance showcasing some of the county's most talented young poets.

Raphael Blake is a spoken word poet and visual artist living in Nottingham. He has performed at LOVEBOX and Splendour Festival 2016 with full six-piece live band, and has garnered support from various BBC Radio stations and been playlisted on Kemet FM. He is constantly putting together various video releases, shooting music videos and running creative writing and visual media workshops in schools and the community.

Ben Norris is a poet, playwright and actor. He is two-time National Poetry Slam champion and has appeared all over the UK including at Latitude Festival and the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. He has also written commissions for BBC Radio 4, Southbank Centre, IdeasTap, and Ditch the Label, among others, and was recently writer in residence at Theatr Clwyd. He is currently developing a new show for the Roundhouse. Ben was born and raised in Nottingham.

Georgina Wilding is Nottingham born and bred, and the city's first Young Poet Laureate 2017/18. See page 6 to read more about Georgina.

PERFORMANCE
GOD SAVE
THE TEEN

WEST BRIDGFORD LIBRARY

7.30pm

£8 / £6

Booking advised

Licensed bar

**Under 18s to be accompanied
 by an adult**

A troubled teenage son and his aloof single father pick their way through a bitterly indifferent relationship in a funny and moving coming of age show about growing up and getting it wrong. Ex-youth worker and poet Andrew Graves relates a drama of gob-smackingly embarrassing first dates, imagined rock-n-roll supermarkets, divorce, disillusion and working-class rebellion. Expect disappearing goths, sadistic PE teachers and a search for the truth and somewhere to belong.

Whether a teen or not, everyone will relate to this honest and nostalgic prayer to that joyously painful, pimple-faced period in our lives where everything and nothing seems possible: where you can be earnest, awkward, beautiful and ridiculous all at the same time.

Andrew Graves regularly performs his work throughout the UK and has appeared on 6 Music's Cerys Matthews Show and the recent BBC 4 documentary *Evidently John Cooper Clarke*. He has performed alongside Henry Normal, John Hegley and Sleaford Mods and has been praised by the likes of comic book legend Alan Moore.

Supported by funding from Arts Council England.



"Graves' vital and visceral voice burns bright on behalf of an under-represented community."

Toria Garbutt

PERFORMANCE

**THE GLUMMER TWINS:
TAKING IT BADLY**

WORKSOP LIBRARY

7:30pm

£8 / £6

Booking advised

Licensed bar

**Under 18s to be accompanied
by an adult**

David Harmer and Ray Globe have just turned 60. They're taking it badly. Come and join the irrepressible Glummer Twins as they celebrate the joys, absurdities and indignities of getting older.

Thirty years after they first appeared together with the legendary Circus of Poets, they're back to put the 21st century to rights. Two old blokes. One guitar. Rock and rhyme and poetry - this is stand-up spoken word from the Beat Generation.

A delightfully downbeat double-act with a unique take on stand-up spoken word comedy and music. Nominated Best Spoken Word Show Buxton Fringe 2016 and 2017.

Coach parties welcome.

Warning: May contain 'dad dancing'.

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

**INVITED
SCHOOLS
EVENT**

MANSFIELD CENTRAL AND
WORKSOP LIBRARIES

Celebrated children's poet John Dougherty will be performing for invited schools audiences in Mansfield and Worksop as part of the festival.



*"Think Morecambe
and Wise crossed with
The Mighty Boosh.*

★★★★★

benhuxleyblog Edinburgh 16.

"Genuinely funny"

Saga Magazine



PERFORMANCE

KEI MILLER

SOUTHWELL LIBRARY

7.30pm

£10/£8

Booking advised

Licensed bar

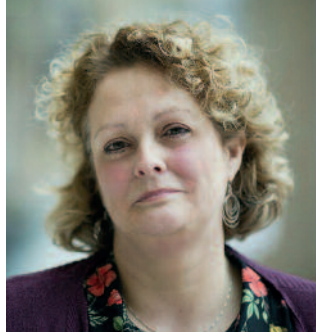
**Under 18s to be accompanied
by an adult**

Kei Miller is a poet, novelist, essayist, short story writer and broadcaster. His poetry collection *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion* (Carcenet, 2014) won the Forward Prize Best Poetry Collection. In 2010, the Institute of Jamaica awarded him the Silver Musgrave medal for his contributions to Literature. He has a PhD in English Literature from the University of Glasgow and is currently a Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Exeter.

"... this is a beautifully voiced collection which struck us all with its boldness and wit. Many poets refer to multiple realities, different ways of observing the world. Kei doesn't just refer, he articulates them."

Jeremy Paxman,
Judge of the Forward Prize

BOOK ONLINE
INSPIRE CULTURE.ORG.UK
/POETRY-FESTIVAL



POETRY TAKEOVER

AT OUR LIBRARIES IN BEESTON,
MANSFIELD, SOUTHWELL,
WEST BRIDGFORD, WORKSOP
AND OTHERS

11am – 3pm

Suitable for all

Just drop by

If you go down to the library today, you're sure of a poetry surprise! Poetry trails, poems in unexpected places, writing, craft and other activities will be happening to celebrate the 2018 Poetry Festival and mark its final day.

WORKSHOPS

ONE TO ONE: POETRY COACHING WITH CATHY GRINDROD

BEESTON LIBRARY

Five slots available to book
between 9.15am and 4pm

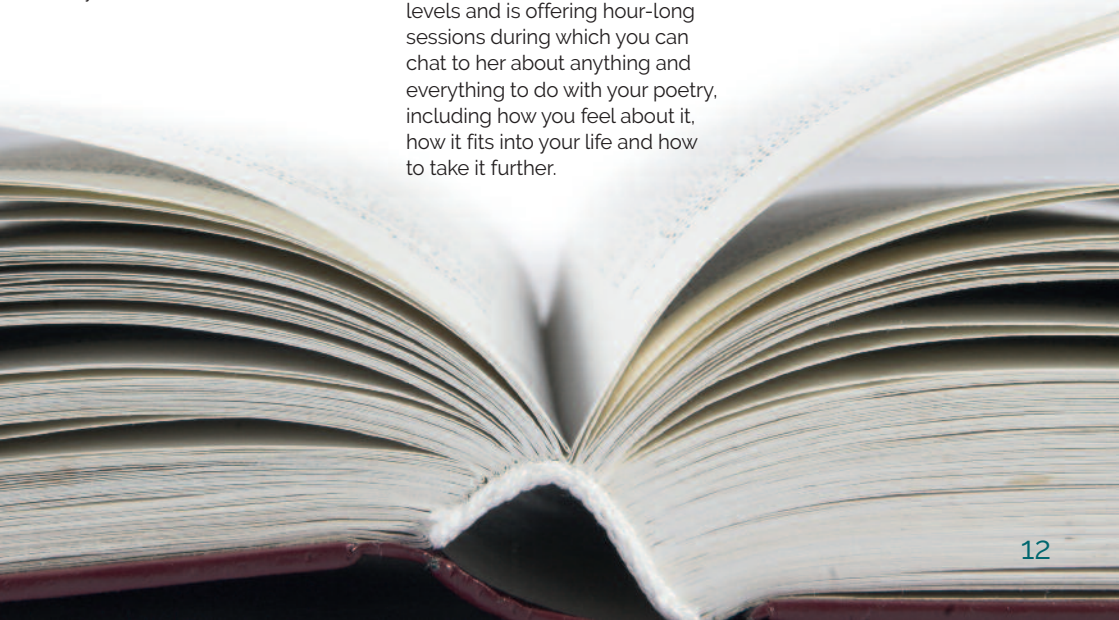
£35

Booking essential

Are you writing poetry and in need of advice, guidance or information about developing your work? Cathy Grindrod is an accredited coach for writers at all levels and is offering hour-long sessions during which you can chat to her about anything and everything to do with your poetry, including how you feel about it, how it fits into your life and how to take it further.

The sessions do not include detailed feedback on work, but you are welcome to bring along two of your poems if you think it would be useful as an example of your writing. Open to poetry writers at all stages.

Cathy Grindrod is a widely-published East Midlands writer and former Derbyshire Poet Laureate, and is also an experienced facilitator of poetry reading and writing workshops. She specialises in writing for wellbeing and is a writer coach and mentor.



PERFORMANCE

**AFTERNOON TEA
WITH MAURA
DOOLEY**

SOUTHWELL LIBRARY

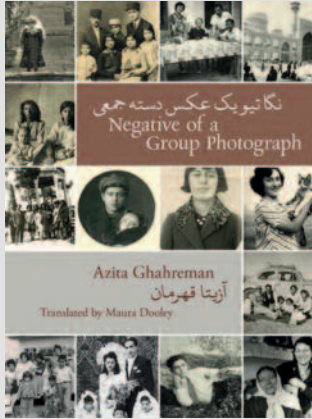
3.30pm

**£10 / £8 including hot drink
and cake**

Booking essential

The ever-popular Southwell Afternoon Tea With... is back! Come to hear Maura Dooley read her poetry and talk about her writing life, interspersed with hot drinks and a selection of delicious cakes. A truly scrumptious way to spend an afternoon in your library.

Maura Dooley's most recent collection of poetry is *The Silvering* (2016). In 2015 she was poet in residence at the Jane Austen House Museum, Chawton, and her poems from the residency are published as *A Quire of Paper*. This year she will publish (with Elhum Shakerifar) versions in English of poems by the exiled Iranian writer Azita Ghahreman, *Negative of a Group Photograph*. She has been shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize twice and received both the Eric Gregory and the Cholmondeley Awards. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Professor of Creative Writing at Goldsmiths, University of London.



Join us to celebrate international poetry in a reading featuring translated works from original languages including Farsi, Greek, Russian, and Irish. Members of Nottingham Poetry Society and Beeston Poets will share their favourite poetic voices from around the world, and special guest poet Maura Dooley will talk about her experience of translating the work of Iranian refugee Azita Ghahreman, collected in her new book of Ghahreman's poetry, *Negatives of a Group Photograph*.

PERFORMANCE

**TRANSLATIONS,
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
MAURA DOOLEY**

**IN ASSOCIATION WITH NOTTINGHAM
POETRY SOCIETY, BEESTON POETS
AND FIVE LEAVES BOOKSHOP
BEESTON LIBRARY**

7.30pm

£5 (£1 from every ticket

**will be donated to a
local refugee charity)**

**Under 18s to be
accompanied
by an adult**



*"...beguiling
and arresting,
but always
unpretentious."*

The Independent

COMMUNITY EVENTS AT SOUTHWELL LIBRARY

MUG WITHOUT A HANDLE

Thursday 27 September

10.30am

£3

Booking advised

Alison Chippindale presents 'Mug without a handle', a poetic observation of life after losing a partner. Alison is a local poet and founder member of the Women's Poetry Group which meets at Southwell Library.



NOT SCARY POETRY GROUP
PRESENTS

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SENSORY WORLD OF POET/ARTISTS

Saturday 29 September

11am

Free

Which came first? The image or the word? For some poets, a single channel of expression was not enough to quench their artistic passion. From William Blake and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, to Mervyn Peake and GK Chesterton: join us for a colourful presentation of art and poems.

HEXAMETRE

Sunday 30 September

4.30pm

£3

Hexametre is a group of six poets from Leicester, Lincoln, Nottinghamshire and Sheffield whose work has been published in national and international journals such as *Acumen*, *Dream Catcher*, *Magma* and *The North*. Join them to enjoy a range of poetry from contemporary voices.



WINE AND WORDS

Sunday 30 September

7pm (doors open 6.30pm)

£10 including welcome drink

Adult event

No online booking.

Tickets available from the promoter - please call Southwell Library for details.

Local poets Jane Wyles and Fiona Theokritoff invite you to enjoy a flavour of the approaching Autumn. A glass of wine (or soft drink) on arrival, readings from Jane and Fiona's lively repertoire plus some classic favourites combine with your chance to play 'poetry bingo' to create a unique poetry experience that celebrates life in all its seasons!



*“The poet is
the priest of
the invisible.”*

Wallace Stevens

*"I consider myself
a poet first and a
musician second.
I live like a poet
and I'll die like a
poet."*

Bob Dylan

BOOKING INFORMATION

Online

Tickets for most events can be booked online at www.inspireculture.org.uk/poetry-festival

In person

Tickets can be purchased at the library where the event is taking place, except for the event at The Old Library, which must be booked online.

By phone

For phone bookings contact the library where the event is taking place.

Tickets are non-refundable unless an event is cancelled. Programme subject to change.

Access information

All venues are wheelchair accessible. For venue specific access information visit the website. Please contact the venue if you have access requirements.

About Inspire

Inspire is an innovative cultural organisation launched by Nottinghamshire County Council. We are a Community Benefit Society that is dedicated to inspiring people to read, learn and enjoy culture with the help of our services.

Join us!

It's free to join inspire and becoming a member will allow you to help shape the way our services are managed. visit the website to find out more.

www.inspireculture.org.uk

Contact Inspire:

info@inspireculture.org.uk
Ask Inspire: 0115 804 4363

VENUES

Beeston Library

Foster Avenue
Beeston
Nottingham NG9 1AE
0115 925 5168
beeston.library@inspireculture.org.uk

Mansfield Central Library

Four Seasons Centre
West Gate
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 1NH
0115 804 4363 (Ask Inspire)

The Old Library

Leeming Street
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 1NG
Online bookings only:
inspireculture.org.uk/poetry-festival

Southwell Library

The Bramley Centre
King Street
Southwell
Nottinghamshire
NG25 0EH
01636 812 148

West Bridgford Library

Bridgford Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 6AT
0115 981 6506

Workshop Library

Memorial Avenue
Workshop
Nottinghamshire
S80 2BP
0115 804 4373

INSPIRE POETRY FESTIVAL 2018 AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY 25 – SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

BOOK ONLINE
INSPIRECULTURE.ORG.UK
/POETRY-FESTIVAL

	BEESTON LIBRARY	MANSFIELD CENTRAL LIBRARY	THE OLD LIBRARY MANSFIELD	SOUTHWELL LIBRARY	WEST BRIDGFORD LIBRARY	WORKSOP LIBRARY
TUE 25 SEPT		Workshop Poetry Pick-me-Up with Cathy Grindrod 10.30am – 12.30pm £5			Workshop How to Be a Poet with Jo Bell 2.30pm – 5pm, £10 Performance Jo Bell 7.30pm, £10 / £8	Workshop Getting into Poetry with Cathy Grindrod 2 – 4pm, £4
WED 26 SEPT	Performance WORD! with Vanessa Kisuule 7pm, £7 / £5	Film Dead Poets Society (PG) 2pm, £2				Performance Live at the Poetry Café: Jo Bell & Georgina Wilding 6.30pm, £5
THU 27 SEPT			Performance Live at The Old Library Blake, Norris, Wilding 7.30pm, £6 / £4	Community Alison Chippindale: Mug without a Handle 10.30am, Free	Performance God Save The Teen 7.30pm, £8 / £6	Performance The Glummer Twins: Taking it Badly 7.30pm, £8 / £6
FRI 28 SEPT		Invited Schools Performance John Dougherty		Performance Kei Miller 7.30pm £10 / £8		Invited Schools Performance John Dougherty
SAT 29 SEPT	Poetry Coaching with Cathy Grindrod Five one-to-one sessions between 9.15am – 4pm £35 Poetry Takeover 11am – 3pm, Free Performance Translations with Maura Dooley 7.30pm, £5	Poetry Takeover 11am – 3pm, Free		Poetry Takeover 11am – 3pm, Free Community Not Scary Poetry Group 11am, Free Performance Afternoon Tea with Maura Dooley 3.30pm £10 / £8	Poetry Takeover 11am – 3pm, Free	Poetry Takeover 11am – 3pm, Free

For **Community events at Southwell** after the festival please see page 14