



**TEIGNMOUTH
POETRY FESTIVAL 2023**

**Fri 31st March to
Sun 2nd April**

www.poetryteignmouth.com

VENUE & TICKETS, PARKING & TRAVEL

**Venue, all events: Pavilions Teignmouth
Den Crescent, TQ14 8BG**

TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

You can buy tickets only through Pavilions Teignmouth, either in person, online at pavilionsteignmouth.org.uk or by phone on 01626 249049.

Box Office Hours: Mon to Sat, 10am - 3pm, and 1 hour before a performance or screening.

There is a booking charge of 50p per transaction (not per individual ticket) for bookings in person, £1 per transaction online or by phone.

Unsold tickets for all events (except workshops) will be available on the door.

All day parking: Eastcliff Car Park, TQ14 8PH or Point Car Park, TQ14 8BW

Trains: Pavilions is a level walk of 400m from the station.

By bus: several routes pass close to Pavilions – search online for details.

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Programme in Brief

- Fri 31 March** 3 pm Andy Brown – The Tree Climbing Cure
- 5 pm The Poetry of Unknown Things – with Rosie Jackson and Graeme Ryan
- 8 pm Reading – Jacqueline Saphra
- Sat 1 April** 10 am Poetry Workshop – Jacqueline Saphra
- 2.30 pm Competition Results & Prizegiving – free event
- 4.30 pm Reading – Fiona Benson
- 7.30 pm Inanna Reimagined
- Sun 2 April** 10 am Poetry Workshop – Fiona Benson
- 2pm Open Mic – free event
- 3.30 pm Poems in Other Languages
- 7.30 pm Day Evans Dale Ensemble – words and music

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE PAVILIONS, TEIGNMOUTH

FRIDAY MARCH 31

3.00 – 4.00pm

£5.00

READING – ANDY BROWN – THE TREE CLIMBING CURE

Andy Brown's latest book *The Tree Climbing Cure* (Bloomsbury, 2023) examines the well-being benefits of tree climbing and being among trees, and how tree climbers are represented in poetry, novels and art. In 2023 he also publishes two new collections of poetry - *The Big Rip* (Worple Press) and, in collaboration with Marc Woodward, *Grace Notes* (Sea Crow Press, USA). The author of 20 books of poetry and criticism, he is currently Professor of Creative Writing at Exeter University. Introduced by Marc Woodward



5.00 – 6.00 pm

£5.00

THE POETRY OF UNKNOWN THINGS – WITH ROSIE JACKSON, GRAEME RYAN & OTHERS

'The dust and stones of the street were as precious as gold...and something infinite behind everything appeared.' (Traherne) This event will share poetry which celebrates the mystery of life, following the human heart as it moves through darkness towards light and joy. We will hear from Sufi mystics Rumi and Hafiz, from Herbert, Donne, Eliot, Hopkins, and contemporary voices such as Marie Howe, Jane Hirshfield, Carolyn Forché, Mary Oliver, Roger Robinson. Rosie Jackson's new collection *Love Leans Over the Table* (2023) explores the work of various mystics. Graeme Ryan's *Valley of the Kings* was published in 2022.

8.00 – 9.00pm

£7.00

READING – JACQUELINE SAPHRA



Jacqueline Saphra is a poet, playwright and teacher. Recent collections are *All My Mad Mothers*, shortlisted for the 2017 T.S. Eliot prize and *Dad, Remember You are Dead* (2019), both from Nine Arches Press. *A Bargain with the Light: Poems after Lee Miller* (2017) and *Veritas: Poems after Artemisia* (2020) were published by Hercules Editions. Her most recent play, *The Noises* was nominated for a Standing Ovation Award. *One Hundred Lockdown Sonnets* was published by Nine Arches Press in 2021 and her fifth collection, *Velvel's Violin* will be out in summer 2023. She is a founder member of *Poets for the Planet* and teaches and mentors for The Poetry School.

Introduced by Rosie Jackson

SATURDAY APRIL 1

2.30 – 3.30pm

COMPETITION RESULTS & PRIZEGIVING

FREE EVENT

Few poetry events offer suspense but it should happen here as the shortlisted poets first read their successful entries then wait to hear which of them will have a share in the £1450 prize fund. The judges are multi-award winning poet Fiona Benson for the Open competition, and Sue Proffitt for the Graham Burchell Award for Devon Poets. This FREE event is an opportunity to hear some of the very best poetry being written in the English language today.

Introduced by Virginia Griem and Ian Royce Chamberlain

4.30 – 5.30pm

POETRY READING – FIONA BENSON

£7.00

Not to be missed! Fiona Benson is one of the gems of contemporary English poetry. Her collection *Vertigo and Ghost* (Cape, 2019) received the Forward Prize for Best Collection and was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. *Bright Travellers* (Cape, 2014) was awarded the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize and the Seamus Heaney Centre Prize for a First Full Collection, and was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. In 2018, her poem *Ruins*, included in *Vertigo and Ghost*, was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem. She also received the Eric Gregory Award, from the Society of Authors, in 2006. Her latest collection is *Ephemeron* (Cape, 2022). Guardian reviewer, Ben Wilkinson said, "... a poet whose dark imagination mixes solemnity with lyricism, treating the poem as a kind of secular prayer."

Introduced by Veronica Aaronson



7.30 – 9.30pm (approx)

INANNA REIMAGINED

£10.00



In a sequence of poems taken from Veronica Aaronson's latest collection: *Inanna Reimagined*, 12 poets and two musicians, through the voices of the main characters and non-human bystanders, retell the ancient myth of Inanna, the Sumerian Goddess. Listen as the Holy Fly negotiates his way into the beer-houses, find out why the Royal Meat-Hook is ecstatic, accompany Inanna as she descends to the Underworld to meet Ereshkigal, Queen of the Great Below... "These poems are addictive; I am utterly compelled by their rollicking energy, their playfulness and chutzpah, their superb craft, and their imaginative use of dramatic monologue." Fiona Benson.

Inanna: Susan Taylor, Ereshkigal: Rachael Clyne, Narrator: Jean Grimsey

SUNDAY APRIL 2

2.00 – 3.00pm

POETRY OPEN MIC

FREE EVENT

No advance booking – first come, first served. A chance to present your latest and finest to a friendly festival audience. Specially welcome will be poets who are visiting Teignmouth from elsewhere. Precise format and length of reading slots will depend upon numbers taking part.

MC Marc Woodward

3.30 – 4.30pm

POETRY IN OTHER LANGUAGES

£5.00

Always an audience favourite, this event features volunteer readers who are not just fluent in their chosen (or preferably native) languages, but poetry aficionados too. Up to ten languages or dialects will be represented and all poems will come with a translation into English.

While we have many European languages covered, in Teignmouth we sometimes have trouble finding speakers from further afield. Specially welcome would be Asian, African or Middle Eastern representation. Do get in touch if you can help – contact details are on the Home page of the Poetry Teignmouth website.

Introduced by Ian Royce Chamberlain

7.30 – 10.00pm

DAY EVANS DALE ENSEMBLE – GREEN MONEY

£10.00

Day Evans Dale Ensemble fuses the words of award winning poets Steve Day and Jennie Osborne into cutting edge music. The core band has built a niche interest in America and Europe through recordings and radio. *Green Money* is their latest album on the Discus Label, reviewed by Rigobert Dittmann as "an enchantment of bittersweet sophistication..." Musically the Ensemble draws on jazz, classical and rock filtered through unique improvised soundscapes which give voice to the global crisis, environmental, economic and social issues. Jennie Osborne's latest poetry collection is *Signals From The Other* (Dempsey & Windle), while Steve Day has a new collaborative collection with former National Poetry Competition winner Roger Philip Dennis, *Invocations And Portraits* (All About Arts/Wylde Publications).

Steve Day: voice, drums, percussion; Peter Evans: electric violin; Julian Dale: double bass, voice; Mark Langford: tenor sax, bass clarinet, piano; Ric White: EWI, Soundbox, flutes, saxophones, piano; Jennie Osborne: voice.



POETRY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY APRIL 1, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

£15.00

LED BY JACQUELINE SAPHRA – ‘*LOVE AND PROTEST*’

How many of us experience a range of emotional responses to the times we live in, finding ourselves swinging between gratitude and despair, between love and rage, between activism and paralysis? How can we harness these feelings to create poems that can hold these contradictions or at least co-exist along a continuum?

We'll spend some time with Maggie Smith, WB Yeats, Jericho Brown, Lucille Clifton and other great poets and see if we can work constructively to build more power and balance into our work and writing lives.

ENTRY BY ADVANCE BOOKING ONLY

To receive regular mailouts with news of all Poetry Teignmouth activities

POETRY WORKSHOP

SUNDAY APRIL 2, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

£15.00

LED BY FIONA BENSON – ‘*POETRY REHAB*’

Join Fiona Benson for a poetry rehabilitation workshop. For those who doubt, who are underconfident, who are stuck. We will focus on putting our trust in the process, and having faith that the right word or idea will find you. This will be a playful, restorative session in which we will use images to prompt poems, make collages inspired by poet-artist Sophie Herxheimer, and play with kennings and metaphors. Complete beginners through to experts welcome!

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sign up via the Home page of the website: poetryteignmouth.com