

# TEIGNMOUTH POETRY FESTIVAL 2019

**Roger McGough**

**Brian Patten – Ayaz**

**John Greening**

**Kim Moore – Fiona Benson**

**Martin Figura &**

**Doctor Zeeman's Catastrophe Machine**

**Gill McEvoy – Skylark**

and

**Paul Deaton – Tim King – Graeme Ryan**

**Julie-ann Rowell – Veronica Aaronson**

**21 TO 24 MARCH 2019**

**[www.poetryteignmouth.com](http://www.poetryteignmouth.com)**

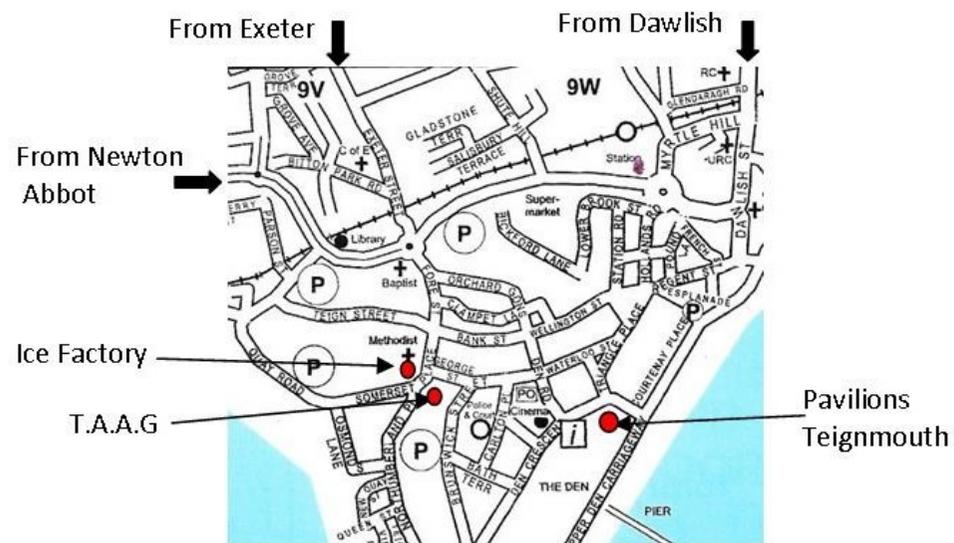
## TICKETS / WORKSHOP BOOKINGS

You can buy tickets for all events and workshops only through Pavilions Teignmouth, either in person, online at [pavilionsteignmouth.org.uk](http://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 will be a booking charge of 50p per transaction (not per individual ticket) for bookings in person, £1 per transaction for online/phone bookings.

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



[www.poetryteignmouth.com](http://www.poetryteignmouth.com)

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Teignmouth Viewfinder [www.facebook.com/Teignview](http://www.facebook.com/Teignview)

## Programme in Brief

Thursday 21 Mar	8.00 – 10.00 pm	Flying High... Shedding Feathers – Gill McEvoy & Skylark	Ice Factory
Friday 22 Mar	10.00am – 1.00pm	Workshop – Fiona Benson	Pavilions
	1.45 – 2.15pm	Open Mic	Ice Factory
	2.30 – 4.00pm	Reading - Julie-ann Rowell, Veronica Aaronson, Paul Deaton	Ice Factory
	4.30 – 5.30pm	Poems with Pzazz – Launch of Pzazz3	Ice Factory
	7.00 – 8.00pm	Poems in Other Languages	Ice Factory
	8.30 – 9.30pm	Reading - Kim Moore, Fiona Benson	Ice Factory
Saturday 23 Mar	10.00am – 1.00pm	Writing Workshop - Kim Moore	Pavilions
	10.00am – 1.00pm	Writing Workshop – Ayaz	Pavilions
	11.30am-12.30pm	Readings and prizegiving for Young Poets competition	Ice Factory
	1.45 – 2.15pm	Open Mic	Ice Factory
	2.30 – 4.00pm	Sufi Poems & Stories – Brian Patten, Ayaz	Ice Factory
	4.30 – 5.30pm	Reading – Art & Poetry – ‘Song & Dance’	T.A.A.G
	7.00 – 8.30pm	2019 Competition results & Reading – John Greening	Pavilions
	9.00 – 10.00pm	Headline Reading – Roger McGough	Pavilions
Sunday 24 Mar	10.00am – 1.00pm	Writing Workshop – Helen Ivory	Pavilions
	10.00am – 1.00pm	Writing Workshop – John Greening	Pavilions
	11.30am–12.30pm	Festival Debate	Ice Factory
	1.45 – 2.15pm	Open Mic	Ice Factory
	3.00 – 4.00pm	Doctor Zeeman’s Catastrophe Machine – Martin Figura	Pavilions
	6.00 – 7.00pm	Reading – Tim King, Graeme Ryan	Ice Factory
	8.00 – 10.00pm	Festival Slam presented by Tim King	Ice Factory

### Fringe Events

Saturday 26 Jan	11.00am – 2.00pm	Poetry Workshop for people aged 16 and under – led by Tim King	Pavilions
Saturday 16 Mar to Friday 29 Mar		Art inspired by Poetry/Poetry inspired by Art. Exhibition on a theme of ‘Song & Dance’	T.A.A.G
Saturday 16 Mar	6.00 - 8.00pm	‘Song & Dance’ Exhibition launch including songs of the sea from the Back Beach Boyz	T.A.A.G

Details of writing workshops on page 5

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Well, who would have thought, six years ago, that Veronica’s quiet notion of a poetry festival in Teignmouth could have travelled this far? Our most loyal followers will see that we are sticking to roughly the same format we started with. But do let us know what we can do to make the Teignmouth experience better. Suggestions or any other comments are welcome, via the website, or by email or social media.

New this year is a daily open mic – free, short, informal lunchtime sessions in the downstairs room at the Ice Factory. Bring your own lunch and make tea or coffee in the small kitchen. And if you have poems to share we’d love to hear them.

### THURSDAY MARCH 21

8 – 10pm

Ice Factory

£6

#### FLYING HIGH... SHEDDING FEATHERS – Gill McEvoy & Skylark

The 2019 Festival begins tonight, fluttering into action with the vibrant energy of a skylark and the lexical dexterity of a high-flying poet.

**Gill McEvoy** has published two full collections with Cinnamon Press and three poetry pamphlets with HappenStance Press; of these *The First Telling* was winner of the 2015 Michael Marks Award. She is a Hawthornden Fellow and writes short fiction in addition to poetry.



**Skylark** is a four piece band who perform traditional and contemporary songs with two-part harmony singing, fiddle, flute, mandolin, guitar and percussion. Their repertoire includes rousing numbers like jigs and reels, mixed with quieter, intimate songs which show off the exceptional blend of instruments and voices. Skylark’s performances never fail to create an uplifting atmosphere.

[www.skylark4harmony.wix.com/skylark](http://www.skylark4harmony.wix.com/skylark)

### FRIDAY MARCH 22

1.45 – 2.15pm

Downstairs in the Ice Factory

FREE

#### OPEN MIC

A laid-back lunchtime session, to a backing track of singing kettles and a chorus of cutlery clatter. No advance booking, no indigestible rants or polyunsaturated *Performances*, just a low-carb diet of home-made poetry. Bring your own pasties – teas and coffee provided.

## FRIDAY MARCH 22 (Cont...)

2.30 – 4.00pm

Ice Factory

£6.00

READING – JULIE-ANN ROWELL, VERONICA AARONSON AND PAUL DEATON

Including tea & cakes



Julie-ann Rowell's latest collection is *Voices in the Garden* (Lapwing Publications), a highly-acclaimed sequence on the life of Joan of Arc. Previous work includes a full collection, *Letters North* (Brodie Press) and a pamphlet, also from Brodie: *Convergence*. Other successes include the Frogmore Poetry Prize and placings in the Bridport Prize and Mslexia Poetry Competition. Julie-ann is also well-known for her focus on environmental issues.

Veronica Aaronson was a co-founder of the Festival. She runs an open mic quarterly in Teignmouth and produces Pzazz, an anthology of poems from those events. Veronica's first collection, *Nothing About The Birds Is Ordinary This Morning* (Indigo Dreams) was published in 2018. Veronica was winner of the Dawlish Poetry Trail 2016 and has been long-listed in the National Poetry Competition 2016, The Rialto Nature Poetry Competition 2018 and Torbay Open Poetry Competition 2018.



Paul Deaton's 2017 collection, *A Watchful Astronomy* (Seren Books) was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. In addition to several competition successes, Paul's work has appeared in magazines and anthologies including *PN Review*, *The London Magazine*, *The Dark Horse* and *New Boots & Pantisocracies*. His poetry features regularly in *The Spectator* and is included in the Forward Prize Anthology 2019. Paul is a counsellor in addictions, working for the NHS in Bristol. He is also a marathon runner.

4.30 – 5.30pm

Ice Factory

£3.00

POEMS WITH PZAZZ

Pzazz3 is the Festival's latest anthology of home-grown poetry, compiled by Veronica Aaronson. Every poem has been heard at Poetry Teignmouth's quarterly open mic sessions. Also eagerly awaited is the presentation of the Hillstead Trophy, awarded to the best poem with an environmental theme. The Festival is grateful to Martyn and Nikki Hillstead for their generous donation of this beautiful trophy.

7.00 – 8.00pm

Ice Factory

£5.00

POEMS IN OTHER LANGUAGES

This event, which is still almost unique among poetry festivals, has long been an audience favourite. There is fascination in hearing how poetry *works* in other tongues, spotting the rhythms and cadences or the mechanisms of rhyme... We will feature work in ten languages, read by volunteers who are either fluent or native speakers, including translations into English.

## FRIDAY MARCH 22 (Cont...)

8.30 – 9.30pm

Ice Factory

£8

READING – FIONA BENSON AND KIM MOORE



Fiona Benson's first collection, *Bright Travellers*, was published by Jonathan Cape in 2014. It was awarded the Seamus Heaney Prize for first collection and the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. An earlier pamphlet was the first in the 'Faber New Poets' series. A second full collection from Cape, *Vertigo & Ghost*, will be published in time for the Festival. Fiona lives in rural Devon with her husband James and their daughters, Isla and Rose.

Kim Moore's first full length collection, *The Art of Falling*, was published by Seren in 2015 and won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. Her first pamphlet, *If We Could Speak Like Wolves*, won the 2011 Poetry Business Pamphlet Prize and was shortlisted for a Michael Marks Award. She won the Geoffrey Dearmer Prize in 2010, an Eric Gregory Award in 2011 and a Northern Writers Award in 2014. Kim was one of the judges of the 2018 National Poetry Competition and is currently a PhD candidate at Manchester Metropolitan University looking at poetry and sexism.



## SATURDAY MARCH 23

11.30am - 12.30pm

Ice Factory

£3

YOUNG POETS - THE NEXT GENERATION

(16s and under FREE)



Judge Annie Fisher will invite prizewinners from the Young Poets competition to read their work. We will also hear from young people who took part in Tim King's poetry workshop earlier in the year. This event is part of Poetry Teignmouth's ongoing drive to free up the creative urge in writers of the future. Annie Fisher is semi-retired, having worked as a teacher and English adviser. She is widely known in Somerset schools as *Arabella*, *Storyteller*. Her own writing combines the playful with the poignant and is always amusing. Her pamphlet, *Infinite In All Perfections*, was published by HappenStance in 2016.

1.45pm – 2.15pm

Downstairs in the Ice Factory

FREE

OPEN MIC

At Poetry Teignmouth we welcome anyone with spoken words to share. Here's a chance to present new work to a contented audience of lunchtime grazers. Bring your own sarnies – we'll do the teas and coffees. No advance booking, no nervous apologies, just stand up and do it.

## SATURDAY MARCH 23 (Cont...)

2.30 – 4.00pm

Ice Factory

£6

### SUFI POEMS AND STORIES WITH BRIAN PATTEN AND AYAZ

Including tea and cakes

**Brian Patten's** latest creation is *The Book of Upside Down Thinking*, a magical collection of short poems built around stories often attributed to a character in Middle Eastern folklore that we have come to know as Nazrudin. Much of this beautifully illustrated book is based on modern interpretations of those stories; the newer poems of his own could not have existed, Brian says, without Nazrudin's inspiration. Brian Patten was one of the Liverpool Poets, alongside Adrian Henri and Roger McGough. Their joint 1967 collection, *The Mersey Sound*, was the single book which inspired ordinary people to read poetry. Fifty years and over half a million copies later, it is still in print.



**Ayaz (Angus Landman)** is a Sufi poet, formerly a psychotherapist, who now runs The Practice Rooms, centres for talking therapies and holistic health across the South West. His poetry stems from an inner revelation that began in his teens and finds its creative expression in the poetry and philosophy of the Sufi Way. He is interested in reframing the Christian story from a mystical perspective, addressing its relevance to how we live and the choices we make. Ayaz and his family live near Bath; he enjoys walking, horse riding and creating beautiful spaces.



4.30 – 5.30pm

T.A.A.G

FREE

### READING – ART AND POETRY – 'SONG & DANCE'

This informal reading was a highlight of last year's Festival.

Many voices – some well-known, others less so – will speak from all corners of the galleries, confronting or conversing with over 40 artworks on display. Collaborating on a theme of 'Song & Dance' an invited group of visual artists and poets have been working towards the Festival's own exhibition. Artists have responded to new poems donated by our Festival guest poets and others, and the invited poets have been writing to new work, both 2D and 3D, from the artists. Be prepared for an hour of sheer delight!

## SATURDAY MARCH 23 (Cont...)

7.00 – 8.30pm

Pavilions Auditorium

£7.00

### COMPETITION RESULTS

The Festival's Local competition was judged by **Julie-ann Rowell**. Julie-ann will announce the results, present the prizes, and invite the winners to read their successful poems.

The Open competition Judge **John Greening** will invite short-listed poets from the 2019 Teignmouth Poetry Festival Competition to read their entries. He will announce the results and present the £850 in prizes.



### FOLLOWED BY READING – JOHN GREENING

**John Greening** is recipient of a Cholmondeley Award and winner of the Bridport and TLS prizes. His recent books include *To the War Poets* (Carcenet), editions of Edmund Blunden and Geoffrey Grigson, *Heath* (with Penelope Shuttle), an Egypt memoir, *Threading a Dream*, and the anthologies, *Accompanied Voices* and *Ten Poems about Sheds*. His next collection, *The Silence*, appears from Carcanet in 2019.

Image: Adrian Bullers

9.00 – 10.00pm

Pavilions Auditorium

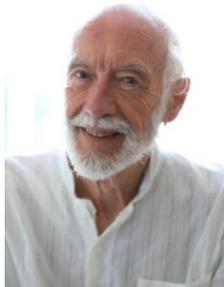
£10.00

### FESTIVAL HEADLINE READING – ROGER MCGOUGH - JOINEDUPWRITING

How many poets are household names? How many have been part of a No 1 hit single and a big box-office film, been awarded a CBE, OBE, and the Freedom of the City of Liverpool? Or won the Signal Award for best children's poetry book while being the softly engaging voice of one of Radio 4's longest-running radio shows? It all started back in the '60s. The Beatles were brand-new mega-stars and Liverpool was the place to be. Roger McGough and the other Mersey poets had been much influenced by New York's beat scene and shot to fame as the cool literary arm of the city's sudden emergence as cultural hub.

**Roger McGough** today is *'The patron saint of poetry'* (Carol Ann Duffy), *'A poetry torch in dark corners'* (Ian McMillan), and *'A witty and ingenious chronicler of British life...'* (The Poetry Society). He has over 70 books to his name, is President of the Poetry Society, and still makes occasional appearances with Little Machine, the band with a brilliant repertoire of poetry set to music. An exuberant new collection, *joinedupwriting*, will be published by Penguin in late March. Its mood will be familiar: mostly high-spirited, revolving around word-play, written in almost conversational style. He tackles the most serious subjects (parenthood, illness, ageing...) with the lightest of touches and a complete absence of high falutin' language – he is the most accessible of poets. It's no coincidence his work is much used in schools and has travelled in many translations all around the world.

Teignmouth Poetry Festival is privileged to present the favourite-uncle voice of 'Poetry Please'. Don't miss this one! Learn more at [www.rogermcgough.org.uk](http://www.rogermcgough.org.uk), Twitter @McgoughRoger



## SUNDAY MARCH 24

11.30 – 12.30pm Ice Factory FREE

### FESTIVAL DEBATE

A panel of experienced poets will cover the pros and cons of a hot poetry topic.

1.45 – 2.15pm Downstairs in the Ice Factory FREE

OPEN MIC - Feed us with home-grown delights! Teas & coffee provided – you bring the rest.

3.00 – 4.00pm Pavilions Auditorium £10

### DOCTOR ZEEMAN'S CATASTROPHE MACHINE – MARTIN FIGURA

**Martin Figura** is a poet and photographer. His latest one-man show, *Doctor Zeeman's Catastrophe Machine*, is a masterclass in spoken word. It was shortlisted for the 2018 Saboteur Awards and is currently touring the UK to 5-star reviews. This show was a highlight of last year's Ledbury Festival. Martin's poetry includes the collection, *Whistle*, which was nominated for the Ted Hughes Award and won the Saboteur 2013 Best Spoken Word Show Award. Patience Agbabi says 'His subject matter is so challenging it makes the audience gasp. In spite of this, he engages the listener with warmth and humour.' Martin lives in Norwich, is married to Helen Ivory, is chair of Café Writers and a trustee of Norwich Arts Centre. *Catastrophe Machine* is a tour de force – no-one emerges unaffected.



6.00 – 7.00pm Ice Factory £6

### READING – TIM KING AND GRAEME RYAN



**Tim King** is one of the Southwest's top Spoken Word performers. His work ranges from the brutally honest to the deeply poignant via some clever and quirky word-play. Tim hosts Taking The Mic, a monthly Spoken Word event at the Phoenix Arts Centre in Exeter, and is a champion of young writers, leading workshops in schools and encouraging new talent onto the stage.

Image Ian Beech

**Graeme Ryan** is a drama teacher, playwright and poet. He lives in Somerset and is a popular leader of creative writing groups. Graeme won last year's Teignmouth Open Poetry Competition and his dramatic performance in the Festival's mini-slam won him our invitation to present a wider range of his poetry.



8.00 – 10.00pm Ice Factory £6

### POETRY SLAM WITH TIM KING – assisted by Sam Boarer

We are delighted that Tim King, multiple slam winner, will present this final Festival event. A dozen top class Spoken Word performers will compete for prizes – and the honour of becoming our Festival Slam Champion. This will be fun!

## TEIGNMOUTH POETRY FESTIVAL 2019

### WORKSHOPS

places at workshops must be booked in advance

### FRIDAY MARCH 22

10am – 1pm Pavilions Meeting Room/Studio £15

#### LED BY FIONA BENSON

'*All the pretty little horses*' a title which reflects the 'Song & Dance' theme of the Festival's art exhibition, exploring the tender, intimate, wishful, and sometimes subversive realm of the lullaby. From this beautiful dwelling house of song new poems of childhood (or parenting) will emerge.

### SATURDAY MARCH 23

10am – 1pm Pavilions Meeting Room/Studio £15

#### LED BY KIM MOORE

'*Veiling the Narrative*' will look at the different ways of telling a story in our poems. Can images do the job for us; do fragmentation and repetition help? We will experiment with the ideas of holding back or telling all. What are the ways of 'veiling the narrative' and should we try and do this at all?

10am – 1pm Pavilions Meeting Room/Studio £15

#### LED BY AYAZ

'*The heart needs a Thou*' This workshop, focusing on a modern approach to Sufi thinking, will invite participants to address their poems to 'The Beloved', or an 'Other', whatever those terms might mean for them. It will be challenging, and hopefully deeply rewarding.

### SUNDAY MARCH 24

10am – 1pm Pavilions Meeting Room/Studio £15

#### LED BY HELEN IVORY



'*Metaphorical Truth*' Is there something you have wanted to write about, but couldn't find a way in? Helen will show how a leap into imagination can take you closer to the way things really feel – the kind of truth that had Alice shrink in a pool of her own tears. Helen Ivory's fourth Bloodaxe collection is *Waiting for Bluebeard*. She edits the webzine *Ink Sweat and Tears* and is a tutor for the UEA/NCW.

10am – 1pm Pavilions Meeting Room/Studio £15

#### LED BY JOHN GREENING

'*A box where sweets compacted lie*' is a quote from George Herbert's famous poem, 'Virtue', whose four stanzas are warrens of interconnecting thoughts, sentiments and constructions. This workshop will focus on the stanza: what is it for, what separates it or links it to others, how is the stanza best put together? The session will include opportunities to experiment with different forms.

## TEIGNMOUTH POETRY FESTIVAL 2019

### Venues

Pavilions Teignmouth – Den Crescent, Teignmouth TQ14 8BG  
Box Office 01626 249049 [www.pavilionsteignmouth.org.uk](http://www.pavilionsteignmouth.org.uk)  
(see box office opening times on back page)

Ice Factory, 10 Somerset Place, Teignmouth TQ14 8EN  
[www.teignmouthplayers.com](http://www.teignmouthplayers.com)

T.A.A.G – Teignmouth Arts Action Group, Northumberland Place,  
Teignmouth TQ14 8DD,  
[www.teignmoutharts.org](http://www.teignmoutharts.org)

[See map on page 1](#)

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Torbay Symphony Orchestra

For details and tickets: 01626 870107

Online tickets:  
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[southdevonsingers@gmail.com](mailto:southdevonsingers@gmail.com)

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