

## Writers & Location



A NAWE conference in association with  
the Professional and Creative Writing Programme,  
St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, TW1 4SX



A College of the University of Surrey

### Programme: Friday 30 April - Saturday 1 May 2004

#### Friday 30 April

18.00 Registration and tea/coffee (Room D121)

18.30 Welcome - Peter Dewar

Poetry Readings: from Wales to Australia via Western Europe (Waldegrave Drawing Room)

Franz Andres Morrissey (Home Games and Away Matches);  
Mick Leigh (An Australian Dreamtime);  
Norman Schwenk (Welsh Locations). Norman will also introduce his recently co-edited anthology,  
*The Hare that Hides Within*: poems about St Melangell, her legend and her shrine by Anne  
Cluysenaar, John Freeman, David Hart, Gwyneth Lewis, Hilary Llewellyn-Williams, Norman  
Schwenk and others.

#### Saturday 1 May

09.15 Coffee and Registration (Waldegrave Drawing Room ante-room)

09.45 Welcome - Robyn Bolam (Waldegrave Drawing Room)

10.00 1 Workshop - Liz Cashdan (Room C104)  
'Postcards, People, and Places' - a workshop for prose or poetry

2 Seminars: Chair: Conor Carville (Room D121)  
'From Rome to Roscommon: the fiction of John McGahern & Adam Thorpe' – Tim Burke  
'In my end is my beginning': Brian Moore and Ireland' – Richard Mills

3 Seminars: Chair: Robyn Bolam (The Waldegrave Drawing Room)  
'The use of known locations to anchor a book' - Martin Goodman  
Martin will focus on passages from his books and will talk about the parts their locations played in  
the development of his writing.

'The Apricot Orchards of Maribor' - Keith Bennett  
Keith will relive the journey taken from a single poem generated at a workshop, to a published  
collection of collaborative poetry that arose from exploring the creative potential of an imagined, real  
place. The location of Maribor was chosen from an old map of Yugoslavia...

11.20 Coffee (Waldegrave Drawing Room ante-room)

11.50 Panel Session (Waldegrave Drawing Room)  
Royal Literary Fund Project Fellow, Brian Keaney, leads a panel of student writers from the  
Professional and Creative Writing Programme.

12.30 Lunch (Long Gallery)

- 13.40 1 Workshop - David Hart (Room C104)  
 'This side of beyond'  
 We will write into location, where we live, where we move, across boundaries of whatever kind, looking to make discoveries by way of poetry empathetically.
- 2 Workshop - Maggie Butt (Room D121)  
 'The View From Here. Using memory, pictures and imagination to explore the relationship between character and location.'
- 3 Seminar: Chair: Tim Burke (Waldegrave Drawing Room)  
 'Paul Muldoon's Other Spaces' – Conor Carville  
 Paper and discussion  
 'Writing Belfast in Ciaran Carson' - Philip McGowan  
 Paper and discussion
- 15.00 Tea
- 15.30 1 Workshop - Brian Docherty (Room C104)  
 'A trip round Memory Harbour: Ekphrasis and Creative Writing'  
 A reading from Brian's poem sequence, *Memory Harbour* (a response to Jack B Yeats's watercolours) will lead into a writing workshop in which Brian will demonstrate how ekphrasis can be used to stimulate creative writing.
- 2 Workshop - Franz Andres Morrissey (Room D121)  
 'Well-trodden Paths and Other Exotic Locations'  
 The workshop focuses on (re-) examining the familiar, both in terms of experience and language, and working towards a view point of the 'outsider looking in'. If possible, we will also explore techniques of using language in writing which could be used in a context where participants may not be native speakers of English.
- 3 Seminars: Chair: Paul Munden (Waldegrave Drawing Room)  
 'Working with writers in rural locations' - Lis Whitelaw  
 This seminar will explore my experience of working with writers in rural communities and of being a writer whose current writing draws heavily on my own memories of and ideas about life in the countryside. How much difference does it make whether the location is rural or urban?
- 'Artists' notebooks: poetry, drawing and creative journaling' - Christian McEwen  
 This seminar will be based on a series of workshops taught last autumn at Smith College, Massachusetts, in which venues alternated between the Art Museum and the Botanical Gardens.
- 16.50 Poetry Reading by Carol Rumens
- 17.30 Close

### Biographical notes

**Keith Bennett** is a poet, performer and playwright with an MPhil in Creative Writing from Glamorgan University. He is currently a mentor for NAWA and his second collection of poetry, *The Clockwork Poetry Machine*, is due out later this year from Dionysia Press, Edinburgh.

**Robyn Bolam** lectures on the English and Professional & Creative Writing programmes at St Mary's College. More information can be found at: [www.contemporarywriters.com](http://www.contemporarywriters.com)

**Tim Burke** lectures on the English and Professional & Creative Writing programmes at St Mary's College. He edited *Ann Yearsley: Selected Poems* for the Cyder Press (University of Gloucestershire) in 2003.

**Maggie Butt** runs the Creative and Media Writing degree at Middlesex University. She is an ex-journalist and TV documentary film maker, and her poetry pamphlet *Quintana Roo* was published last year by Acumen.

**Liz Cashdan** teaches Creative Writing for the WEA and at Sheffield University Institute of Life-long Learning. Her last collection was *Laughing All the Way* (Five Leaves Publications, 1995).

**Conor Carville** lectures on the Professional & Creative Writing and Irish Studies Programmes at St Mary's College.

**Peter Dewar** is Director of the Professional & Creative Writing programme at St Mary's College.

**Brian Docherty** is a PhD candidate on the Professional & Creative Writing programme at St Mary's College. His first collection of poems, *Armchair Theatre*, was published by Hearing Eye Press in 1999. He has co-edited three anthologies by Word for Word Writers' Group and seven titles in the Insights Series published by Macmillan.

**Martin Goodman's** novel, *On Bended Knees* (Macmillan, 1992) was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Award. He has also published *In Search of the Divine Mother* (Harper, 1998), *I Was Carlos Castaneda* (Rivers/Random House, 2001), and *On Sacred Mountains* (Heart of Albion, 2002). His most recent novel is *Look Who's Watching*.

**David Hart** was Birmingham Poet Laureate (1997-98) and has held numerous residencies, including Arts Council Poetry Fellow, University of Warwick (2001-2). His publications include *The Men's Hut* (Worcester Cathedral residency poems, Flarestack, 2000), and *Crag Inspector* (Five Seasons Press, 2002).

**Brian Keaney** is best known as a writer of novels for young people. He has also written both fiction and non-fiction, had a number of plays performed and published, worked as a journalist, written promotional materials for large corporations, government organisations and charities and been writer-in-residence in two London boroughs.

**Mick Leigh** writes poems for both children and adults. An Australian, he makes regular visits to the UK where his workshops have proved popular in libraries across the west of England.

**Christian McEwen** was born in London, grew up in Scotland and has lived in the US for the past 24 years, where she works as writer, teacher and editor. Her books include *The Alphabet of the Trees: A Guide to Nature Writing*, co-edited with Mark Statman (Teachers & Writers, 2000), and *In the Wake of Home* (Meadowlark Press, 2004).

**Philip McGowan** is Lecturer in American Literature at Goldsmiths' College. His publications include *American Carnival: Seeing & Reading American Culture* (2001) and his second book (on Anne Sexton) will be released later this year. He is currently working on a biography of Dorothy Parker.

**Richard Mills** lectures on the Professional & Creative Writing & Irish Studies Programmes at St Mary's College.

**Franz Andres Morrissey** teaches creative writing at Berne University and in teacher training workshops in Switzerland. He has written EFL textbooks and manuals on creative writing, including *Creative Ways* (British Council and BBC World Service). He has also written children's fairytale musicals and one-act plays.

**Norman Schwenk** was, until his retirement, Convenor of Creative Writing at Cardiff University. He now works as a freelance writer and teacher. He has published two collections of poetry, *The Black Goddess* (Chiron Press) and *How to Pronounce Welsh Place Names* (Alley Press). He has lived in Wales since the 1960s.

**Lis Whitelaw** has written biography, fiction, criticism and translations and is now working on a book about what it means to live a rural life in the 21st century. She has taught in Adult and Higher Education for most of her working life and has recently returned to the freedom and anxiety of life as a freelance.