



Recitation competition

Poetry, Memory and Performance teacher days

These CPD days are designed for teachers, teacher educators and others interested in the opportunity to work with contemporary poets and performance specialists skilled in sharing the purpose and process of committing poetry to memory - and reciting it. Those attending will work with a poet or other expert to develop their own skills and practices in reading poetry aloud, as well as exploring new/revived practices for teaching poetry across the secondary age range.

Each day will be enhanced by time to talk to a member of the Poetry By Heart team about all aspects of the project and the competition. We will also consider the evidence for the value of poetry performance and memorisation, drawing on recent research and other publications. In addition, a pack of materials will be provided to further inform and inspire your teaching.

Refreshments are provided at all events, and lunch is provided on full-day events.

All events are free and are open to teachers, teacher educators, student teachers, poets, publishers and those working in cultural organisations at local and national levels. Teachers at schools and colleges enrolled in this year's competition have been given priority.

Events are listed chronologically from 27th February until 12th March 2013. Two further events will take place in Oxford at OUP with poet Vahni Capildeo, and in York with poet and composer Jaap Blonk. Details to be confirmed.

This programme will be used as the basis for developing teaching approaches focused on poetry, memory and performance which will be made available at www.poetrybyheart.org.uk. Please contact info@poetrybyheart.org.uk for further details or sign up for the newsletter on the site by clicking on the link on Contacts&share.

North East England

27th February 9:30am-3pm, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington

In association with the [National Association of Writers in Education](#)

For this event in the North East, poet Anne Caldwell and voice coach Martine Dunn are welcomed into the heart of the action, a Sixth Form College with a strong tradition of creative initiative and teacher support. Teachers from schools/colleges participating in Poetry By Heart throughout the North East region are most welcome.

Anne Caldwell, poet, is the author of *Talking with the Dead* (Cinnamon Press 2011). She leads the Creative Writing programme at Bolton University and is CPD manager for the National Association of Writers in Education. Martine Dunn is a Voice and Performance Coach who has recorded numerous poetical works for the GCSE and A Level English Literature market. She also works as a Communications and Performance examiner and adjudicator throughout the UK and Sri Lanka.

The core of the day is a workshop facilitated by Anne and Martine, leading to a group recitation of poems. Teachers will work with a small sample of the poet's own work along with poems from the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. This will support practical exploration and experimentation with the idea of reading aloud as an act of interpretation. There will also be space to consider the relationship between recitation and more dramatic modes of performance.

East of England

1st March 9.30am-3pm, Homerton College, Cambridge

In association with [The Poetry Society](#)

The day will be led by the poet Hannah Lowe and researchers Professor Morag Styles, David Whitley and Debbie Pullinger. During the day there will be the chance to explore the value of learning poetry by heart, including activities that consider various approaches to poems from the anthology; reflections on useful memorisation strategies and recitation focusing on rhythmic elements. The venue is Homerton College in Cambridge.

Hannah Lowe was born in Ilford to an English mother and Jamaican-Chinese father. She has lived in Brighton and Santa Cruz, California. She studied American Literature at the University of Sussex and has a Masters degree in Refugee Studies. Currently she lives in Brixton and teaches literature at a college in Islington. Her first full collection 'Chick' is published by Bloodaxe.

Morag Styles divides her time between research and teaching, having two major courses in the Faculty of Education on which she co-ordinates, examines, teaches and supervises. Her research areas are all within the

field of the academic study of children's literature. She has many links with outside organisations which include the British Library, Arts Council, Book Trust, UKLA, IRSC, IBBY. Morag also heads up the Caribbean Poetry Project (<http://caribbeanpoetry.educ.cam.ac.uk/>).

David Whitley had a range of teaching experiences before lecturing in Cambridge; from tutoring in medieval literature at Oxford to working with emotionally disturbed adolescents. His current teaching in the faculty focuses primarily on poetry, film, and children's literature. David has published on major poets, such as Carol Ann Duffy and Ted Hughes, and co-edited a ground-breaking new volume, *Poetry and Childhood* (2010), with Morag Styles and Louise Joy. He is currently leading a British Academy funded project on the teaching of poetry across institutional phases, from primary school through to university, which promises to yield important results. David is also one of the leading organisers of an [international project for the teaching of Caribbean poetry](#), working with partners at the University of the West Indies.

After a career in teaching, educational publishing and writing, Debbie Pullinger returned to academia in 2008. Having completed Masters in Children's Literature and in Educational Research, she is now undertaking ESRC-funded doctoral research on the aesthetics of poetry for children and its theoretical relationship to the fields of children's literature and poetry. She was the Research Assistant on the Cambridge Poetry Teaching Project, with David Whitley.

The core of the day is a workshop facilitated by Hannah, Morag, David and Debbie, leading to a group recitation of poems. Teachers will work with a small sample of the poet's own work along with poems from the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. This will support practical exploration and experimentation with the idea of reading aloud as an act of interpretation. There will also be space to consider the relationship between recitation and more dramatic modes of performance.

West Midlands

1st March 9.30am-3pm, Birmingham City University, Birmingham

In association with [Writing West Midlands](#) and supported by [Birmingham City University](#)

This day will be led by poet, writer and performer David Calcutt and by Jonathan Davidson, Chief Executive of Writing West Midlands and a producer of poetry in performance pieces. The venue is the iconic School of Art building in central Birmingham, close to railway stations and car parks.

David Calcutt is a playwright, poet and novelist. He has written many plays for theatre, community theatre and radio, and many of his plays for young people are published by OUP. He has also published three novels for young people - "Shadow Bringer" and "The Map of Marvels" for OUP, and "Robin Hood" for Barefoot Books. He is a regular reader of his poetry around the Midlands, and has just published a collection with fellow writer Nadia Kingsley, "Road Kill" from Fair Acre Press. Through his work in theatre as both writer and director, and his many years' experience of running drama and poetry workshops with young people, David has developed a number of methods to help people learn the spoken word so in a meaningful way, and has explored a variety of techniques designed to bring out the best in performance of spoken and dramatic language.

Jonathan Davidson is Chief Executive of Writing West Midlands, the region's literature development agency and a regional promoter of literature activities for young writers. He has also published several poetry collections, most recently *Early Train* (Smith/Doorstop, 2011) and his radio plays and adaptations are regularly broadcast on BBC Radio Four and BBC Radio Three. He is a producer of literature performances, most recently the acclaimed poetry show 'Being Human', a co-production with Bloodaxe Books and the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, which toured nationally in 2012 and will re-tour in 2013.

The core of the day is a workshop facilitated by David and Jonathan, leading to a group recitation of poems. Teachers will work with a small sample of the poet's own work along with poems from the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. This will support practical exploration and experimentation with the idea of reading aloud as an act of interpretation. There will also be space to consider the relationship between recitation and more dramatic modes of performance.

South West England

1st March 9.30am-3pm, Sharpham House, Totnes

In association with the [National Association of Writers in Education](#)

Poetry by Heart is delighted to present one its greatest advocates, the poet Alice Oswald, running an event for teachers in the South West. The venue, Sharpham House, is an outstanding example of English Palladian architecture, set in a majestic location high above the banks of the River Dart - from which Alice Oswald's collection of poems takes its name. *Dart* (Faber 2002), which won the TS Eliot Prize, unfolds, in the poet's own words, as "a map poem or song line" guided by the meanderings of the river. Alice Oswald's most recent book, *Memorial* (Faber 2011), is a mesmerizing reworking of the world's greatest war story: Homer's *Iliad*. Her

reading of the work captures the *Iliad*'s ability to astound and engross: as if the listener were part of a rapt audience, sat with Oswald around a glowing campfire. Of the Poetry by Heart project, she writes:

"It isn't possible to understand poetry, which is a musical skill, without hearing and internalising some of its tunes. Poetry By Heart is a practical way to encourage this in schools and I think it could remove some of the confusion (and anger) people feel when confronted with poetry. Poems, unlike prose, are memory efficient. That doesn't just mean they go easily into the memory and stay there. It means the memory goes easily into a poem and grows there, perhaps indefinitely."

The core of the day is a workshop facilitated by Alice, leading to a group recitation of poems. Teachers will work with a small sample of the poet's own work along with poems from the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. This will support practical exploration and experimentation with the idea of reading aloud as an act of interpretation. There will also be space to consider the relationship between recitation and more dramatic modes of performance.

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South East England

5th March 9.30am-3pm, Jurys Inn Hotel, Brighton

In association with [The Poetry Society](#)

This day will be led by Mike Dixon, the Education Consultant who wrote the background materials for the Poetry By Heart Anthology, and poet Steve Tasane.

Mike Dixon read English Literature at St Catharine's College, Cambridge University, where he also completed his P.G.C.E. He subsequently taught English in Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges in Essex and Sussex before becoming Head of Park Sixth Form College in Eastbourne between 2003 and 2009. After a period working on widening participation in H.E. for Brighton University he is now an education consultant and freelance writer engaged on a number of education projects including Poetry By Heart. Mike wrote the commentaries on the majority of the poems and poets in the Poetry By Heart anthology.

Steve Tasane works with all ages and all abilities, having particular experience of working with children and adults with learning disabilities. Primarily working as a live poet (he has featured regularly at Glastonbury music festival and venues such as the 100 Club and Ronnie Scott's as well as more literary spaces such as The Barbican or Cheltenham Festival of Literature), he brings a refreshing perspective to schools, delivering his poetry without the assistance of books. See www.stevetasane.com.

The core of the day is a workshop facilitated by Mike and Steve, leading to a group recitation of poems. Teachers will work with a small sample of the poet's own work along with poems from the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. This will support practical exploration and experimentation with the idea of reading aloud as an act of interpretation. There will also be space to consider the relationship between recitation and more dramatic modes of performance.

London - The National Portrait Gallery

6th March 9.30am-3pm, The National Portrait Gallery, London

In association with the [National Association of Writers in Education](#)

This event sees Poetry by Heart in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery, where the initiative was launched. There are portraits in the Gallery of a number of the poets included in the Poetry by Heart anthology, adding another dimension to the way in which poet Mario Petrucci will explore the connections between artist and interpreter, inner thought and spoken voice.

Mario Petrucci won the prestigious Arvon/Daily Telegraph International Poetry Prize with *Heavy Water: a poem for Chernobyl* (Enitharmon 2004). He has been poet in residence at the Imperial War Museum and for BBC Radio 3, and produces a variety of poetry resources tying into science. "A master of the art" (Poetry Writers' Yearbook), he devises courses for the Poetry School, the Poetry Society's *Poetryclass* initiative and Arvon/Foyle Young Poets. The collaborative performance poetry group he co-founded, ShadoWork, won many awards, resulting in voice training seminars and acclaimed performances across the country.

The core of the day is a workshop facilitated by Mario, leading to a group recitation of poems. Teachers will work with a small sample of the poet's own work along with poems from the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. This will support practical exploration and experimentation with the idea of reading aloud as an act of interpretation. There will also be space to

consider the relationship between recitation and more dramatic modes of performance.

Yorkshire

7th March 5.00pm-7.30pm, Shandy Hall, Coxwold, Yorkshire

In association with the [National Association of Writers in Education](#)

Shandy Hall welcomes teachers to an after-school event exploring poetry and memory. Shandy Hall, the former home of the 18th-century writer Laurence Sterne, is often referred to as the birthplace of the modern novel. Today it continues to play host to a wealth of adventurous initiatives, including this event in the Poetry by Heart programme. Patrick Wildgust, the curator, and Paul Munden, a poet with a long and close association with Shandy Hall, will together present an intriguing range of mnemonics to help you grasp how poems can be endlessly and pleasurably recalled.

Paul Munden is Director of the National Association of Writers in Education. His poetry has been published by Faber and in the recent book, *Asterisk*, a collection of poems taking their inspiration from Shandy Hall but bringing the whole process of personal memory into the mix.

Patrick Wildgust is the curator at Shandy Hall, where he has set up ground-breaking educational projects, enabling schools to use the Hall, its artefacts and environment as inspiration for new, creative work.

The core of the session is a workshop facilitated by Paul and Patrick, leading to a group recitation of poems. Teachers will work with a small sample of the poet's own work along with poems from the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. This will support practical exploration and experimentation with the idea of reading aloud as an act of interpretation. There will also be space to consider the relationship between recitation and more dramatic modes of performance.

East Midlands

8th March 9.30am-3pm, Nottingham Mechanics Institute, Nottingham

In association with the [National Association of Writers in Education](#)

Peter Sansom returns to his home town to lead this Poetry by Heart event for teachers in the East Midlands. A leading poetry editor and tutor, Peter is supremely skilled at helping readers to think like writers. In this full-day

workshop, he will explore that process with particular reference to how the patterns a poet creates are key to how readers can understand a poem, memorise it and recite it.

Peter Sansom's books include *Selected Poems* (Carcenet) and *Writing Poems* (Bloodaxe), the latter of which is widely regarded as one of the very best resources for those teaching and studying poetry at all levels. He has been Fellow in Poetry at both Leeds and Manchester Universities and company poet for M&S and The Prudential. 'The best poetry teacher in the world' (The Guardian), he is co-director of The Poetry Business, which is a publisher and writer development agency based in Sheffield.

The core of the day is a workshop facilitated by Peter, leading to a group recitation of poems. Teachers will work with a small sample of the poet's own work along with poems from the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. This will support practical exploration and experimentation with the idea of reading aloud as an act of interpretation. There will also be space to consider the relationship between recitation and more dramatic modes of performance.

London - The Roundhouse

11th March 9.30am-3pm, The Roundhouse, London

In association with [The Poetry Society](#)

This day will be led by poet, writer and performer Joelle Taylor and by Jamie Luck, Lead Practitioner for the Royal Shakespeare Company's Education team. Using RSC rehearsal room practices, and techniques from the Poetry Society's SLAMBassadors spoken word programme, the day will explore techniques for learning and speaking poetry successfully. The venue is the Roundhouse, a venue which hosts regular poetry events and has also been the London venue for RSC performances including their award winning Histories season.

Jamie Luck is lead practitioner for the [RSC's Learning and Performance network](#), working with hundreds of children across the country to support the teaching and learning of Shakespeare using RSC rehearsal room techniques. These strategies have helped children and teachers across the world access Shakespeare in a new way.

Joelle Taylor is the Artistic Director of SLAMBassadors UK. She is based in London, and has worked extensively as a performance poet, spoken word artist and storyteller since 1986. She also has a background in theatre. She has led numerous writing and performance workshops in schools, theatres and art centres. She has toured nationally both as a solo artist and as a member of Atomic Lip, a polyphonic performance poetry group which fused spoken word with popular culture.

The core of the day is a workshop facilitated by Jamie and Joelle, leading to a group recitation of poems. Teachers will work with a small sample of the poet's own work along with poems from the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. This will support practical exploration and experimentation with the idea of reading aloud as an act of interpretation. There will also be space to consider the relationship between recitation and more dramatic modes of performance.

North West England

12th March 6.30pm-9pm, Manchester University, Manchester

In association with the [National Association of Writers in Education](#)

Teachers in the North West are invited to this Poetry by Heart event, hosted by the prestigious Centre for New Writing at the University of Manchester. The Centre is staffed by some of the leading poets in the country, who will be leading this session in order to support teachers taking part in the Poetry by Heart recitation competition.

John McAuliffe is Co-Director of the Centre for New Writing at the University of Manchester. His first collection, *A Better Life* (Gallery, 2002), received a major bursary from the Irish Arts Council and was shortlisted for the Forward First Collection Award. A second collection, *Next Door*, was published in 2007. He also writes essays and reviews of contemporary poetry for journals and newspapers in Ireland and the UK.

Vona Groarke joined the Creative Writing team at Manchester University in 2007. Her poetry collections with Gallery Press include *Shale* (1994), *Other People's Houses* (1999), *Flight* (2002), which was shortlisted for the Forward Prize (UK) in 2002 and won the Michael Hartnett Award in 2003, and *Juniper Street* (2006).

The core of the session is a workshop facilitated by John and Vona, leading to a group recitation of poems. Teachers will work with a small sample of the poet's own work along with poems from the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. This will support practical exploration and experimentation with the idea of reading aloud as an act of interpretation. There will also be space to consider the relationship between recitation and more dramatic modes of performance.