



PRESS INFORMATION FOR 10 May 2018:

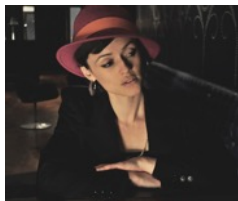
LEDBURY POETRY FESTIVAL 2018

Alexis Taylor, Benjamin Zephaniah, Michael Palin, Sabrina Mahfouz, Chris Difford and Jackie Kay join international cast of poets and musicians for the UK's biggest and award-winning poetry festival



29 June – 8 July

poetry-festival.co.uk



‘One of the most exciting and important literary festivals in England’ - **Carol Ann Duffy**

‘A glorious 10 day early-summer immersion in poetry of all sorts, with a good international line-up of names to savour and discover’ - **Financial Times**



Winner: Best Community Festival in Visit Herefordshire Awards

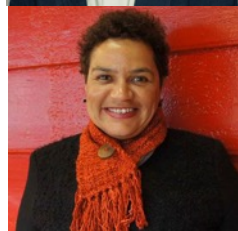
Alexis Taylor (Hot Chip), poet **Benjamin Zephaniah**, comedian, broadcaster and writer **Michael Palin**, poet and playwright **Sabrina Mahfouz**, Scottish Makar **Jackie Kay**, **Chris Difford** (Squeeze), US poet **Jericho Brown** and comedian **Miles Jupp** are among the new poets, musicians and poetry lovers from around the world announced for Ledbury Poetry Festival 2018 (29 June – 8 July), as the full programme is released today Thursday 10 May. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Saturday 19 May 2018.



Over 10 days this summer, with 80 events and over 150 performers, the UK's biggest and much-loved poetry festival will fill the streets and intimate venues of the historic market town of Ledbury, near the Malvern Hills. Following record breaking audiences last year of over 15,000 people, the festival returns with an extra feather in its cap, having won Best Community Festival at the prestigious Visit Herefordshire Awards 2017.



The inspiring relationship between poetry and lyrics is a theme of this year's festival, which will bring Hot Chip lead singer **Alexis Taylor** and Scottish folk musician **James Yorkston** together in conversation and performance; Saint Etienne's **Bob Stanley** talks to poet **John Clegg** about song writing and pop lyrics; founding member of Squeeze **Chris Difford** offers a poetic take on life in and out of the band with poet **Jill Abram** and the frontman of indie-folk band Stornoway, **Brian Briggs** performs his new collaborative work with poet **Paul Henry**, *The Glass Aisle*.



The UK's thriving poetry and spoken word scene will be celebrated wholeheartedly at this year's Ledbury Poetry Festival with readings and pairings of poets including T.S. Eliot Award winner **Hollie McNish** and slam champion **Vanessa Kisuule**, and **Sabrina Mahfouz** and poet **Joelle Taylor** performing together. **Benjamin Zephaniah** draws on his new autobiography to share stories and poems from his remarkable life including his friendship with Nelson Mandela. **Jackie Kay** joins 2018 Ledbury Poetry Festival poet in residence **Zaffar Kunial** and US poet **Major Jackson** to read and discuss a new anthology of poems she has co-edited, celebrating the life and activism of Martin Luther King. Much-loved poet **Wendy Cope** reads from her new collection *Anecdotal Evidence* and **Patrick Gale** and **Jackie Kay** showcase a new **Refugee Tales** anthology, retelling stories of asylum seekers who have suffered at the hands of Britain's policy of 'indefinite detention'.



Pictured: Sabrina Mahfouz, Alexis Taylor, Benjamin Zephaniah, Michael Palin, Jackie Kay, Chris Difford, Church Street Ledbury



In a series of events with poetry lovers, Ledbury Poetry Festival 2018 features **Michael Palin** reading the poetry of passionate and political poet Adrian Mitchell alongside **Sasha Mitchell**, comedian **Miles Jupp** on his 'Desert Island Poems', actor **Michael Pennington** performing the poems of William Blake and renowned academic **Sarah Churchill** discussing the celebrity and personal life of Sylvia Plath.

Ledbury has always been staunchly internationalist and 2018 is no exception, as this year features a strong billing of US poetry stars including **Major Jackson**, **Jericho Brown**, **Linda Gregerson**, **Marie Howe** and **Mark Doty** who appears as part of a day-long immersion in the poetry of Wallace Stevens. Columbian poet **George Mario Angel Quintero** and translator and editor **Richard Gwynn** take a whirlwind tour of South American poetry. Unshaken by Brexit, **Versopolis** the innovative platform for emerging European poets returns backed by funding from the EU Creative Europe Programme for four more years. Four European poets, **Kateryna Kalytko** (Ukraine), **Tomica Bajsić** (Croatia), **Michał Sobol** (Poland) and **Lou Raoul** (France) perform in their native languages alongside three UK poets **Sandeep Parmar**, **Sasha Dugdale** and Welsh language poet **Mererid Hopwood** for the festival's grande finale.

Poetry leaps off the page through a range of experimental, ritualistic and outdoor events. In **Cynhebrwng Aer / Air Burial** audiences led by **Nia Davies** and **Rhys Trimble** are invited to 'air bury' any potentially problematic or volatile bodies of poetic work. In **Rituals** with Poetry Wales, **Nisha Ramayya** invokes a tantric poetics, **Elizabeth-Jane Burnett** takes a transformative wild swim and **Rhys Trimble** makes a multilingual dismemberment of the text. **Kyra Pollitt** and **Sue MacLaine** take part in a **British Sign Language Translation Duel**, translating signed poetry onto the page. Elsewhere poetic delights fill the Walled Garden and a **Poetry Paradise Garden** reflects the community's extensive outreach programme which includes a partnership with charity **Herefordshire MIND** mental health charity. On the last day of the festival the **Ledbury Celebration** takes over the high street offering a day of poetry, music, entertainment and the best local food and drink.

A series of intensive workshops offer aspiring and burgeoning poets practical advice on writing and editing poetry lead by poets ranging from the festival's poet in residence **Zaffar Kunial**, poet and translator **Noèlia Díaz-Vicedo**, **Sinéad Morrissey**, **Linda Gregerson**, **Jo Bell** and **Jane Commane**. **Sandeep Parmar**, Telegraph poetry critic **Tristram Fane Saunders**, and Ledbury Emerging Poetry Critics **Dzifa Benson** and **Sarala Estruch** discuss the role of the poetry critic in relation to issues of diversity.

Chloe Garner, Ledbury Poetry Festival's Artistic Director says 'Ledbury Poetry Festival aims to explore, unpick and illuminate the best contemporary poetry written in the world today, as well as taking a fresh look at poets of the past, through a huge array of events including readings, discussions, performances and workshops. Come and join the fun, we are looking forward to welcoming you!'

Tickets for Ledbury Poetry Festival 2018 go on general sale on Saturday 19 May 2018 from poetry-festival.co.uk and the Box Office on **01531 636232**.

All artists are available for interview. For media enquiries about Ledbury Poetry Festival please contact: Becky Fincham at Bigmouth Book Events & PR on becky@bigmouthpresents.com / 07545 760590 or **Phillippa Slinger, Festival Manager** on manager@poetryfestival.co.uk / 01531 636232

Follow us on Twitter Facebook & Instagram @ledburyfest #LPF2018 poetry-festival.co.uk



LEDBURY POETRY FESTIVAL PROGRAMME 29 JUNE – 8 JULY 2018

On general sale Saturday 19 May | Box office 01531 636232 | poetry-festival.co.uk

FRIDAY 29 JUNE

Festival Launch! Showcase and Celebration!

This event showcases poets at all stages of their development. Starting with **John Masefield High School** pupils. Then Foyle Young Poets **Ankita Saxena, Jade Cuttle** and **Charlotte Wetton**. Plus renowned poets appearing at the Festival, including **Major Jackson, Zaffar Kunial** and **Joelle Taylor**. Host **Brenda Read-Brown** 5pm-6.30pm | BH | Free but ticketed

Jackie Kay

One of Scotland's most celebrated writers, reading and talking about her new collection *Bantam*. 'Jackie Kay depicts a world of grief, joy, love and humour in the sparest terms' (The Guardian).

7.30pm-8.30pm | BH | £12.50

Joelle Taylor and Sabrina Mahfouz

Two supreme performers and a relaxed Friday night atmosphere! 'Joelle Taylor's a shape-shifter, myth maker, linguistic risk-taker; poetical activist, surrealist with a raised fist' (Patience Agbabi).

Sabrina Mahfouz is 'in quite a different league...She speaks lyrically and powerfully...a real find' (The Times).

9pm-10.30pm | RH (Bar available) | £9.50

SATURDAY 30 JUNE

Poetic Delights in the Walled Garden

11am – 4pm

Walled Garden, Ledbury

Wondrous Family Events and Activities – inspired by the magical themes of Masefield's Box of Delights and oodles of zany Dr Zeuss inspired fun! FREE for All.

Emergency Poet: The World's First Poetic First Aid Service

The Emergency Poet offers consultations inside her ambulance and prescribes poems as cures. In the waiting room Nurse Verse dispenses poemcetamols and other poetic pills and treatments from the *Cold Comfort Pharmacy*.

Poetic Line: Linda Gregerson workshop for experienced writers

10am-12noon | BAPD | £20

Refugee Tales with Patrick Gale and Jackie Kay

Showcasing an anthology in which poets and novelists retell the stories of asylum seekers who have suffered at the hands of Britain's policy of 'indefinite detention'.

10am-11am | BH | £9.50

20 Minutes With... Elisabeth Sennitt Clough

10.30am-10.50am | PR | Free

Key to main venues

BH Burgage Hall BAP Baptist Hall BAPD Downstairs at Baptist Hall

CH Community Hall CHMR Community Hall Meeting Room

HM Hellens Manor MT Market Theatre

PR Panelled Room, The Master's House RH Royal Hall TH Talbot Hotel



SATURDAY 30 JUNE (cont/d)

Poetry and Class Politics in the Age of Austerity with Jane Commane

in conversation with **Chloe Garner**

11.30am-12.30pm | BAP | £5

20 Minutes with... Kathy Pimlott

11.30am-11.50am | PR | Free

20 Minutes with... Shauna Robertson and Dawn Gorman

12.15pm-12.35pm | PR | Free

The Mighty Stream, Poems In Celebration of Martin Luther King

Reading and discussion around this anthology of poems that address the crises named by King 50 years ago: poverty, racism and war. With co-editor **Jackie Kay**, **Major Jackson** and **Zaffar Kunial**.

1pm-2pm | BH | £9.50

20 Minutes with... Maya Chowdhry

2.20pm-2.40pm | PR | Free

Helen Dunmore Tribute

With **Julie Myerson** novelist and great friend of Helen Dunmore, hosted by **Neil Astley**. Featuring a number of Festival poets reading poems by Helen Dunmore or inspired by her work.

3pm-4pm | BH | £5.50

Ledbury Poetry Competition Winners Event

3pm-4pm | BAP | Free (ticketed)

20 Minutes with... Ailbhe Darcy

4.20pm-4.40pm | PR | Free

Poetry Reading: Major Jackson and Zaffar Kunial

American poet Major Jackson 'makes poems that rumble and rock' (Dorianne Laux). Zaffar Kunial's launches *Us* his first collection of poems written with tender toughness.

5pm-6pm | BH | £9.50

The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah

Featuring stories about his remarkable life, including his friendship with Nelson Mandela, his musical career with The Wailers, his political campaigns and how he became one of Britain's most popular poets. 7pm-8.40pm | CH | £18

Hollie McNish and Vanessa Kisuule

Two supreme performers and a relaxed Saturday night atmosphere! Hollie McNish writes with 'honesty, conviction, humour and love' (Kate Tempest). Vanessa Kisuule 'is an explosion wrapped in ribbon. One of the most powerful performers of her generation' (Joelle Taylor).

9pm-10.30pm | RH (Bar Available) | £9.50



SUNDAY 1 JULY

Poetry Reading: Lachlan MacKinnon and Linda Gregerson

American poet Linda Gregerson 'produces lyrical poems informed by her expansive reading that are inquisitive, unflinching, and tender' (Poetry Foundation). Lachlan MacKinnon's *Doves* is a 'magnificent collection, suffused with gentle wisdom and studded with moments of quiet revelation' (Scotsman).

11am-12noon | BH | £9.50

Liz Berry Workshop: Ready, steady, go!

When life feels too busy, how can we make time and space for our poetry?

11am-1pm | ICHMR | £20

Minutes with... William Wootten

11.30am-11.50am | IPR | Free

20 Minutes with... Danny Pandolfi

12.15pm-12.35pm | IPR | Free

British Sign Language Translation Duel

Paul Scott's poem *Snowflake* is created and performed in British Sign Language - a language with complex three-dimensional syntax, and no written form - so how do you get a performing body onto the page? Come along to experience and explore sign language poetry and, of course, to judge the efforts of **Kyra Pollitt** and **Sue Maclaine**.

1pm-2pm | MT | £9.50

Poetry Reading: Nia Davies and Caroline Bird

TS.Eliot Prize shortlisted Caroline Bird's 'poems burst with linguistic energy' (TLS). 'Nia Davies quietly dismembers the world around her with a gleeful irreverence and quirky humour' (Geraldine Monk).

1pm-2pm | IBH | £9.50

Poetry and Climate Change with Maya Chowdhry

Maya Chowdhry's *Fossil* explores the impact of human activity on the environment through a post-colonial lens, in conversation with **Chloe Garner**.

1.30pm-2.30pm | BAP | £5

20 Minutes with... Matt Black

2pm-2.20pm | PR | Free

Zaffar Kunial One to Ones

Develop your poetry writing skills with an individual session.

2pm-4pm | Meet at the Box Office | £15 per half hour session

Wendy Cope: Anecdotal Evidence

Anecdotal Evidence demonstrates the formal brilliance and empathetic insight which have delighted readers for years, and shows why Wendy Cope is one of our best-loved poets.

3pm-4pm | ICH | £9.50

Key to main venues

BH Burgage Hall BAP Baptist Hall BAPD Downstairs at Baptist Hall

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PR Panelled Room, The Master's House RH Royal Hall TH Talbot Hotel



SUNDAY 1 JULY (cont/d)

Ritual Poetry

To celebrate a new issue of Poetry Wales, **Nisha Ramayya** invokes a tantric poetics, **Elizabeth-Jane Burnett** takes a transformative wild swim and **Rhys Trimble** makes a multilingual dismemberment of the text. Presented by editor **Nia Davies**.

3pm-4pm | BH | £9.50

Poetry Reading: Jane Commane and Liz Berry

The magical Liz Berry's new pamphlet is *The Republic of Motherhood*. Jane Commane's work interrogates the complexities of class, ideas of place and identity, and examines the current troubled climate of austerity Britain.

5pm-6pm | BH | £9.50

Poetry Reading: Miles Chambers and David Punter

Miles Chambers is a leading and popular poetic cultural commentator and is presented by Bristol Poetry Institute with Professor of Poetry David Punter.

7pm-8pm | BH | £9.50

Cynhebrwng Aer /Air Burial

A ceremony in which participants are invited to 'air-bury' a body of poetic work. With **Nia Davies** and **Rhys Trimble**. If you would like to participate, please inform the box office.

7.30-8.30pm | BAP | £9.50

Film: A Quiet Passion

Emily Dickinson Biopic

7pm-9.05pm | MT | £6

MONDAY 2 JULY

Eating with Words

A series of lunches each with a different poetic theme.

Mon 2 July-Sat 7 July 12pm-1.30pm | St Michael's Church, Ledbury HR81PL | £6

How to be a Poet: Workshop with Jo Bell and Jane Commane

10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4pm | BAP | £50

Community Showcase!

Hosted by **Sara-Jane Arbury**

10am-11.30am | BH | Free

Reading the Romantics, Part 1

with **Sara-Jane Arbury**, **John Burns** and **Martyn Moxley**

12pm-2.30pm | TH | £9 per event | £16 when booking Parts 1 & 2 together (lunch optional, pre-order on arrival)

The Power of Words - 21st Century Mental Health

Features a panel of experts including **Paul Farmer CBE**, **Dr Lucy Johnstone** and **Jo Watson** in partnership with Herefordshire Mind.

2pm-3pm | BH | £5



MONDAY 2 JULY (cont/d)

Malvern Writers' Circle

Trumpet Corner, Near Ledbury, HRS 2RA, 2pm-4pm | Free

Sarah Churchwell on Sylvia Plath

The renowned author and academic in conversation with **Anna Saunders** on themes including biography, authorship, celebrity and the marketplace.

6pm-7pm | BH | £9.50

Desert Island Poems with Miles Jupp

Actor, comedian and host of BBC Radio 4's *The News Quiz*, Miles Jupp shares his favourite poems. Hosted by **Jill Abram**

8pm-9pm | CH | £12.50

Mix Tape

A unique new show of poetry and music mosaics with **Roger Robinson** and **Nick Makoha**.

8.30pm-9.30pm | MT | £9

TUESDAY 3 JULY

Sing Gregorian Chant

A choral workshop, led by **John Rowlands-Pritchard**, on works by the Latin poet Venantius Fortunatus. St Michael and All Angels Church | 10am-5pm | Tickets only £35 for full day workshop

Reading the Romantics, Part 2

with **Sara-Jane Arbury**, **John Burns** and **Martyn Moxley**

12pm-2.30pm | TH | £9 per event | £16 when booking Parts 1 & 2 together (lunch optional, pre-order on arrival)

Homend Poets

6.30pm-8.30pm | Icebytes | Free

Herefordshire Life Through a Lens: Stories from the Hop Yards

This special screening also features poetry readings with two of the film's interviewees, **Raine Geoghegan** and **Margaret Dallow**; a tasting of local beers and a chance to share stories.

5.15pm-8pm | MT | £9.50

Love Songs of WW3: A tribute to Adrian Mitchell with Sasha Mitchell, Peter Moser and Michael Palin

Songs and poetry celebrating the life and work of one of the finest, best-loved, funny, passionate and political poets.

8pm-9pm | CH | £15

Wallace Stevens: The Whole Harmonium

A day bringing to life the poetry of Wallace Stevens created by **Maitreyabandhu** for PoetryEast.

10am-7pm

The Man with the Blue Guitar- an aural/ textual immersion

Maitreyabandhu leads a morning's exploration, including performance-readings, close reading, song and led meditation. 10am-1pm | BH | £20

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TUESDAY 3 JULY (cont/d)

This Horde of Destructions - new perspectives on Wallace Stevens

Ledbury Emerging Poetry Critics, **Maryam Hessavi, Srishti Krishnamoorthy-Cavell and Dzifa Benson**, discuss Wallace Stevens' reputation as a poet, and as a man.
3.30pm-4.30pm | BH | £5

Mark Doty on Wallace Stevens: The Palm at the End of the Mind

Readings and conversation with American poet and memoirist, **Mark Doty**.
5.30pm-7.30pm | BH | £9.50

WEDNESDAY 4 JULY

Tony Sharpe on Auden's Holy Places

Talk focused on the poem, 'In Praise of Limestone', exploring the reasons why such a landscape came to be described by Auden as 'sacred'.
11am-12noon | BH | £9.50

Home: Translation Workshop Part 1 with poet & translator Noelia Diaz-Vicedo

A hands-on exploration of concepts of home, place and belonging through language and translation.
11am-12.30pm | Upstairs Gallery above the shop Enchant and Allure on New Street | £10

Reading the Romantics, Part 1

with **Sara-Jane Arbury, John Burns and Martyn Moxley**
12pm-2.30pm | TH | £9 per event | £16 when booking Parts 1 & 2 together
(lunch optional, pre-order on arrival)

Home: Translation Workshop Part 2 with poet & translator Noelia Diaz-Vicedo

A hands-on poetry and art translation event, building from the morning session.
2pm-3.30pm | Upstairs Gallery above the shop Enchant and Allure on New Street | £10

Home on the Move with Deryn Rees-Jones and Polish poet Rafal Gawin

What happens to our notions of home when we travel into another country and another language?
A poetry reading and discussion.
5pm-6pm (plus visit the exhibition TalkingTransformations: Home on the Move) | Upstairs Gallery above the shop Enchant and Allure on New Street | £5

Derek Walcott talk by poet Matthew Clegg

An illuminating exploration of the Nobel Laureate's poetry and influence.
6.30-7.30pm | BH | £9.50

Pascale Petit and Tishani Doshi

A reading and dance performance. Pascale Petit's *Mama Amazonica* 'is a major literary feat, and this a brilliant sequence of poems. It burns in its own supranatural light' (PBS). 'Tishani Doshi combines artistic elegance with a visceral power to create a breathtaking panorama of danger, memory, beauty and the strange geographies of happiness' (John Burnside).
8pm-9pm | MT | £9.50



WEDNESDAY 4 JULY (cont/d)

A poetic take on life in and out of Squeeze with Chris Difford

Chris Difford plays classic Squeeze songs and shares his inspirations and favourite poems with **Jill Abram**.

8.30pm-9.30pm | CH | £12.50

Friends of the Dymock Poets present Voices from the Great War

Including Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, three Dymock poets, Eleanor Farjeon, Vera Brittain, Carola Oman and the American, Alan Seeger. The poems will be read by **Marilyn Birks** and **Jake Herbst**.

8.30-9.30pm | BH | £9.50

THURSDAY 5 JULY

Close Reading Session: Whale Nation or Blue Planet?

John Parham will mark Heathcote Williams' influence and explore his book-length poem *Whale Nation*.

10am-12 noon | BH | £9.50

Reading the Romantics, Part 2

with **Sara-Jane Arbury**, **John Burns** and **Martyn Moxley**

12pm-2.30pm | TH | £9 per event | £16 when booking Parts 1 & 2 together

(lunch optional, pre-order on arrival)

Being Heard

An incredible opportunity to hear and witness a selection of young people 's poetry. Written by young people from SHYPP (Supported Housing for Young People Project) as part of the Festival 's community outreach programme.

1pm-2pm | CH | Free

"I don't give back a word": National Poetry Competition 40th anniversary readings

This year's winners **Dom Bury**, **Mary Jean Chan** and **Momtaza Mehri** read alongside two poetry greats from the competition 's heritage **Jo Shapcott** and **Pascale Petit**. Plus short discussion and Q&A.

3.30pm-5pm | BH | £9.50

The Personal is Political

Join **Pascale Petit**, **Kim Moore**, **Deborah Alma** and **Roz Goddard**, in conversation and readings from #MeToo - rallying against sexual assault and harassment: A women's poetry anthology.

6pm-7pm | BH | £9.50

The Basket Islands Writers and Poets

Last Keepers of the Gaelic Oral Tradition, with **John Bentley**. By arrangement with Oxford University Press.

6pm-7pm | Ledbury Books and Maps | £9.50

Martin Figura in Dr Zeeman's Catastrophe Machine

This show uses poetry, sound, images and a mathematical machine and asks What can be retrieved from life's catastrophes and wounds?

8.30pm-9.30pm | MT | £9

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FRIDAY 6 JULY

Kim Moore workshop: Veiling the Narrative

for beginners and more experienced poets.
10am-12noon | CHMR | £20

Eric Gregory Award Winners

12noon-1pm | BH | Free (ticketed)

Found Voices with Ledbury Primary School

Pupils take you on a guided tour to perform their poetry around heritage sites in the town!
1.30pm-3pm | The walk will start and finish at The Market House | Free

Jill Abram presents Stablemates

A poetry salon with **Paul Henry, Kim Moore** and **Jonathan Edwards** from Seren Press
2pm-3pm | BH | £9.50

Sinéad Morrissey workshop: No Ideas But In Things

2pm-4pm | CHMR | £20

Poet and novelist Polly Clark chats with Judy Brown

Polly Clark's novel Larchfield is inspired in part by WH Auden's time teaching at Larchfield Academy and includes her own poetry. Reading and discussion event.
4pm-5pm | BH | £9.50

Sinéad Morrissey

Poetry reading and in conversation with **Ursula Owen**. *On Balance* 'Sinéad Morrissey's Forward- winning collection is a breathtaking feat, blending fiction, memoir and history' (The Guardian).
6pm-7pm | BH | £9.50

Poetry Reading: Raymond Antrobus, Peter Raynard and Josephine Corcoran

'A set of rollicking dispatches from a Britain rarely ever heard from except in the disparaging tones of others. Peter Raynard details the toll this exacts on all of us with a rare, almost brutal frankness' (Mona Arshi). Josephine Corcoran's poems celebrate outspoken women, working class and immigrant lives, and they refuse to look away from the harsh realities of inequality, austerity, and poverty. Raymond Antrobus's 'monologues are stunning studies of voice and substance, and his lyric poems are graceful and finely crafted' (Kwame Dawes).
8pm-9pm | BH | £9.50

Paul Henry and Brian Briggs (*Stornoway*)

The Glass Aisle is an astonishing, elegiac and haunting collaboration between two major talents in poetry and music, a long poem with songs, set on the Brecon and Monmouthshire canal.
8.30pm-10pm | HM | £9.50

SATURDAY 7 JULY

Live Poetry Jukebox

Step inside the Live Poetry Jukebox! A selection of delicious and delectable poems about love, life, hope and fun will be waiting for you, pickled and preserved in jars and stored in Mueller & Malten's marvellous Wunderkammer. Choose a jar and release its full flavours! Free, drop in various locations.



SATURDAY 7 JULY (cont/d)

Catch **Sally Crabtree** at the Co-Op where she'll be offering a tasting session from her special edition of *Poems in a Tin* and at the Butcher Row House Museum where she'll be in the boot bath inviting visitors to hook a duck to win a poem, be entertained by her bath time serenades and discover a soap that washes life's cares away!

Zaffar Kunial workshop: Words on the Edge - poetry editing

10am-12noon | CHMR | £20

What is the Role of the Poetry Critic?

How do poetry reviews reflect diversity and the value of poetry in society? Who are they written for? Panel discussion with **Sandeep Parmar**, Telegraph poetry critic **Tristram Fane Saunders** and two Ledbury Emerging Poetry Critics, **Dzifa Benson** and **Sarala Estruch**.

11am-12noon | BH | £9.50

Bob Stanley and John Clegg

Bob Stanley, musician of Saint Etienne fame, journalist and author of *Yeah Yeah Yeah: The Story of Modern Pop*, chats about song writing and the importance of lyrics in pop music with poet John Clegg.

11am-12noon | HM | £9.50

Poems At The Printers

Lesley Ingram and **Samantha Wynne-Rhydderch** perform poems that are hot off the press.

Tilley's Printers | 11.30am-12noon and again at 12.30pm-1pm | £5

20 Minutes with... Kateryna Kalytko

Ukrainian Versopolis poet

11.30am-11.50am | PR | Free

20 Minutes with... Tomica Bajsic

Croatian Versopolis poet

12.15pm-12.35pm | PR | Free

George Mario Angel Quintero and Richard Gwynn

Columbian poet George Mario Angel Quintero and translator and editor of *The Other Tiger, Recent Poetry from Latin America*, Richard Gwynn take a whirlwind tour of South American poetry.

Discussion and poetry reading.

1pm-2pm | BH | £9.50

Found Voices with Sara-Jane Arbury

An entertaining poetic tour of eight Ledbury heritage sites using words found within the buildings themselves, and from First World War poetry.

2pm-3.30pm | The walk will start at The Master's House and finish at St Michael & All Angels Church | £5 (ticket price includes refreshments)

20 Minutes with... Michał Sobol

Polish Versopolis poet.

2pm-2.20pm | PR | Free

Ledbury Forte Second Collection Prize Showcase and Celebration

with winner **Sandeep Parmar** and shortlisted poets **Judy Brown**, **Emma Hammond**, **John McCullough** and **John Clegg**.

3pm-5pm (with interval) | BH | £12.50

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SATURDAY 7 JULY (cont/d)

20 Minutes with... Lou Raoul

French Versopolis poet

3.40pm-4pm | PR | Free

James Yorkston and Alexis Taylor

Conversation on lyric writing, poetry, influences and inspirations before their performance tonight (bring a picnic supper and enjoy both events).

4.30pm-5.30pm | HM | £5

Michael Pennington performs poems by William Blake

with narrative by Mark Fisher.

6.30pm-7.30pm | ICH | £15.50

Modern Poetry in Translation Summer Launch

Join Modern Poetry in Translation's editor **Clare Pollard** to celebrate the summer's LGBTQ focus. With **Mary Jean Chan** discussing queerness and the concept of 'Playtime'; **Richard Scott** reading versions of Verlaine and new translations of **Jayan Cherian**; **Jennifer Lee Tsai** picking her highlights.

6.30pm-7.30pm | BH | £9.50

James Yorkston and Alexis Taylor Performance

James Yorkston is a Scottish folk musician, celebrated for the earthy intimacy of his lyrics and the soaring beauty of his music. 'The finest song-writer of his generation' John Peel. Alexis Taylor is lead singer of Hot Chip and his new solo album 'is an expansive and experimental collection of songs - one that refuses to sit still or be defined' (NME).

8pm-10.30pm | HM | £15

Ladbury Poetry Slam with Sara-Jane Arbury and Steve Rooney

8pm-10.30pm | MT | £9

A Normal Imagination with Henry Normal

Henry Normal, co-writer of *The Royle Family* and other comedy hits, presents his unique brand of poetry, stories and humour as heard on BBC Radio 4.

8.30pm-10.30pm | BH | £15 (to include an interval drink)

SUNDAY 8 JULY

Poetry Walk: Poems and Paths

A walk led by poet **Jean Atkin** through ancient Frith Wood.

9.30am-12noon | Meet under the Market House | £9.50

New Perspectives on Emily Dickinson

Ladbury Emerging Poetry Critics **Sarala Estruch** and **Jennifer Lee Tsai** on American poet Emily Dickinson.

10am-11am | BAP | £5

Judy Brown Workshop: (Dis)mantling, (dis)assembly and (dis)obedience

10am-1pm | BAPD | £20

Festival Bike Ride 2018

10.30am start | Meet under the Market House | Free but ticketed



SUNDAY 8 JULY (cont/d)

20 Minutes with... Nasser Hussain

10.30am-10.50am | PR | Free

American Stars Marie Howe and Jericho Brown

Marie Howe's poetry is 'luminous, intense, and eloquent, rooted in an abundant inner life' (Stanley Kunitz). Howe's latest collection is *Magdalene* and Jericho Brown's is *The New*

Testament. 'To read Jericho Brown's poems is to encounter devastating genius' (Claudia Rankine). Hosted by Bloodaxe Books editor Neil Astley.

11am-12noon | BH | £9.50

20 Minutes with... Dzifa Benson

11.30am-11.50am | PR | Free

A Ledbury Celebration on Ledbury High Street!

Poetry, music and entertainment stage 12 noon – 5pm

Food and drink market 12 noon – 4pm

Poetry, music and entertainment and the best local food and drink! **Rob Barratt, Hip Hop Shakespeare with Kurly McGeachie, Nico Reznick**, the dulcet tones of **Ludlow Jazz Collective, SassCapella, LADS**. Over 30 food and drink stalls organised by Ledbury Food Group, Ledbury Fringe buskers and Ledbury Town Council's celebration cake!

Poetry and the Internet Age with Emma Hammond

in conversation with **Chloe Garner**

12noon-1pm | BAP | £5

20 Minutes with... Mary Jean Chan

12.15pm-12.35pm | PR | Free

Ukrainian Translation Duel

Poem by **Kateryna Kalytko** with translators **Iryna Shuvalova** and **Uilleam Blacker**. Hosted by **Sasha Dugdale**. In partnership with *Modern Poetry in Translation* magazine.

1pm-2pm | BH | £9.50

Desert Island Poems with actor Michael Pennington

in conversation with **Mark Fisher**

1pm-2pm | HM | £12.50

20 Minutes with... Jade Cuttle

1.20pm-1.40pm | PR | Free

Zaffar Kunial One to Ones

Develop your poetry writing skills with an individual session.

2pm-4pm | Meet at the Box Office | £15 per half hour session

New Perspectives on Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Ledbury Emerging Poetry Critics **Mary Jean Chan, Nasser Hussain** and **Dzifa Benson** on Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

2pm-3pm | BAP | £5

20 Minutes with... Sarala Estruch

2.20pm-2.40pm | PR | Free

Key to main venues

BH Burgage Hall BAP Baptist Hall BAPD Downstairs at Baptist Hall

CH Community Hall CHMR Community Hall Meeting Room

HM Hellens Manor MT Market Theatre

PR Panelled Room, The Master's House RH Royal Hall TH Talbot Hotel



SUNDAY 8 JULY (cont/d)

Jan Wagner and Iain Galbraith

Jan Wagner is one of the most important German- language poets of the younger generation. Poetry readings and discussion with his award-winning translator Iain Galbraith.
3pm-4pm | BH | £9.50

20 Minutes with... Jennifer Lee Tsai

3.20pm-3.40pm | PR | Free

Queer Language

Discussion on LGBTQ Poetry , Identity and History, with **John McCullough** in conversation with **Chloe Garner**.

3.30pm-4.30pm | BAP | £5

20 Minutes with... Maryam Hessavi

4.20pm-4.40pm | IPR | Free

Versopolis Readings

A grand finale of readings by Versopolis poets **Kateryna Kalytko** (Ukraine), **Tomica Bajsic** (Croatia), **Michal Sobol** (Poland), **Lou Raoul** (France/Brittany) and UK poets for 2018 **Sasha Dugdale** , **Sandeep Parmar** and **Mererid Hopwood**.

5pm-7pm (interval drinks available) | BH | Free but ticketed

FESTIVAL EXHIBITIONS 29 JUNE – 8 JULY

Poetry Paradise Garden – Artwork and Poetry

An artistic celebration of the Festival's community outreach programme. Hundreds of participants from 15 community groups have been creating poetry and artwork to the theme of a Poetry Paradise Garden. Plus special paintings and poems from LPF's partnership with Herefordshire MIND mental health charity. Panelled Room of the Master's House.

BookArt 18

A stimulating, interactive, illustrative, tactile, sculptural, calligraphic and interactive experience! The Weavers Gallery, Church Lane. 10am-5pm

Talking Transformations: Home on the Move

A multi-media exhibition on show daily at the Ledbury Poetry Festival. In this project a poem titled 'Home' by British poet **Deryn Rees-Jones** travelled through language and filmic translation to France and Spain, while a poem by Polish poet Rafal Gawin 'Home. A structure on Trial' travelled via Romania to the UK. 10am-6pm | Upstairs Gallery above the shop Enchant and Allure on New Street.

All artists are available for interview. For all media enquiries about Ledbury Poetry Festival please

contact: Becky Fincham at Bigmouth Book Events & PR on becky@bigmouthpresents.com / 07545 760590 or **Phillippa Slinger, Festival Manager** on manager@poetryfestival.co.uk / 01531 636232



Notes To Editors

Ladbury Poetry Festival Ticket Information

Tickets for individual events at Ladbury Poetry Festival will go on sale to members on 17 May 2018 and on general sale on 19 May 2018 from the festival website poetry-festival.co.uk or via the Box Office on 01531 636232. For regular updates follow @ledburyfest on Twitter or on Facebook.

Ladbury Poetry Festival

Winner of Best Community Festival in Visit Herefordshire Awards 2017

The 22nd Ladbury Poetry Festival will take place over ten days, from 29 June– 8 July 2018. It is the biggest and best poetry festival in the UK, featuring poets from all over the world. If you think you know what poetry is, come along and let the festival surprise you. There are live readings, performances, workshops, open mics, music, exhibitions, films, family events, street events, a slam and much more. Come along for a celebration of poetry in the rural heartland of England.

The Festival also runs a Community Programme, a Schools Programme, and a New and Emerging Writers' Programme all year round as well as an annual Poetry Competition. Go to www.poetry-festival.co.uk for full details.

Further praise for Ladbury Poetry Festival:

'A brilliant festival, in a lovely town...an absolute must for anyone who believes in the importance of poetry'
The Idler

'The Ladbury Poetry Festival is the best in the country' **Andrew Motion**

'Ladbury Poetry Festival stores up the essence of poetry throughout its packed, intense and sunlit days.'
Helen Dunmore

Zaffar Kunial - 2018 Ladbury Poetry Festival Poet in Residence

Zaffar Kunial was born in Birmingham and lives in Hebden Bridge. He published a pamphlet in the Faber New Poets series in 2014 and spent that year as the Wordsworth Trust Poet-in-Residence. Since his first public reading, of 'Hill Speak' at the 2011 National Poetry Competition awards, he has spoken at various literature festivals and in programmes for BBC radio, and won the Geoffrey Dearmer Prize for his poem 'The Word'. Zaffar's debut collection *Us* is published by Faber & Faber in July 2018.

Ladbury Emerging Poetry Critics

Ladbury Poetry Festival in collaboration with award-winning poets Sandeep Parmar and Sarah Howe are delighted to announce the 8 participants selected for the innovative Ladbury Emerging Poetry Critics mentoring programme.

The Ladbury Emerging Poetry Critics scheme was founded in late 2017 to encourage diversity in poetry reviewing culture and support emerging critical voices.



Ledbury Emerging Poetry Critics (cont/d)

Open to budding BAME poetry critics resident in the UK, the scheme offers an intensive eight-month mentorship programme, including workshops, one-to-one mentorship and critical feedback on the writing of a poetry review which will ultimately be shared with a number of partner publications.

The 8 Ledbury Emerging Poetry Critics are **Dzifa Benson, Mary Jean Chan, Jade Cuttle, Sarala Estruch, Maryam Hessavi, Nasser Hussain, Srishti Krishnamoorthy-Cavell** and **Jennifer Lee Tsai**.

For more details go to <https://www.poetry-festival.co.uk/ledbury-emerging-critics-programme/>

Versopolis

In December 2017, EU funding for Versopolis was confirmed for four more years ensuring excellent European poets will continue to enter the world via Versopolis' innovative programme. After a successful initial three-year 2014–2017 period, the platform, run by Beletrina Academic Press, organizer of the Days of Poetry and Wine festival, has received renewed support of the EU Creative Europe Programme, culture subprogramme 2017–2021. Versopolis will be one of thirteen European supported platforms.

The poet and poetry database on www.versopolis.com will be expanded to include 179 poets creating in 32 different European languages and over 1800 of their poems will be published on the website. Versopolis returns to the Ledbury Poetry Festival in 2018 for the fourth year with three new poets - **Sasha Dugdale, Sandeep Parmar** and **Mererid Hopwood**- ensuring that there will be 14 UK Versopolis poets on the platform who have performed at festivals across Europe. The festival is delighted to welcome Versopolis poets **Kateryna Kalytko** (Ukraine), **Tomica Bajsic** (Croatia), **Michal Sobol** (Poland), **Lou Raoul** (France/Brittany) to the Ledbury Poetry Festival 2018.