



**AGENDA  
INTERNATIONAL  
POETRY FESTIVAL**

with

**ST LEONARDS-MAYFIELD  
SCHOOL**

**OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup> & 11–14<sup>th</sup> 2012**

at

**THE OLD PALACE  
MAYFIELD**

## POETS APPEARING IN THE FESTIVAL

### **Tues 9 October, 2.30-3.30pm, Concert Hall: Gillian Clarke – poetry reading**

Gillian Clarke, National Poet for Wales since 2008, was born in Cardiff and lives in Ceredigion. Her work is widely studied for GCSE and A Level. She is President of Tŷ Newydd, the Welsh Writers Centre which she co-founded in 1990. She has published ten collections of poems and a book of prose, *At the Source*. Her latest poetry collection is *Ice*, 2012. In December 2010 she was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, and the Wilfred Owen Award in 2012.

**Workshop** 12-1pm, Governors' Room with **Susan Wicks** and **Patricia McCarthy**

### **Thursday 11 October, 7.30- 9pm, The Hub: *Split Tongues* – poetry readings and discussion**

**Joseph Horgan** was born in Birmingham, England, of Irish parents. He is a poet, author, journalist, and reviewer. His writings and poems have appeared in numerous literary journals in Ireland, the UK, Europe and America and have been broadcast on television and radio. He is a past winner of The Patrick Kavanagh Award., and has been short-listed for a Hennessy Award. His third, and latest, collection of poetry, *An Unscheduled Life*, a collaboration with the artist Brian Whelan, was published by Agenda Editions in 2012.

**W.S. Milne** is a well-published poet, playwright and essayist, long associated with *Agenda*. He is currently completing the final draft of a novel. He was reared in Scotland, of Scottish parents, and writes his poetry and plays in Scots.

**Sudeep Sen** is a distinguished, multi-award-winning poet, translator and essayist. He edits the prestigious literary journal, *Atlas*, from New Delhi. He has just compiled and edited a large anthology of Indian poets writing in English, published very recently by Harper Collins.

### **Friday 12 October, 2.30-3.30pm, Concert Hall: Mimi Khalvati – poetry reading**

**Mimi Khalvati** was born in Tehran, Iran. She has published seven collections with Carcanet Press, including *The Meanest Flower*, shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize 2007, and *Child: New and Selected Poems 1991-2011*, a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation. She was poet in residence at the Royal Mail and has held fellowships with the Royal Literary Fund at City University and at the International Writing Program in Iowa. She is the founder of The Poetry School, where she teaches. Her awards include a Cholmondeley Award from the Society of Authors and she is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Her work is represented on GCSE and A level syllabuses.

**Workshop** 6.30-7.30pm, Governors' Room with **Mimi Khalvati**

**Hearteners** – 8-9pm, The Hub: **poetry readings**

**Gill McEvoy** runs several poetry events in Chester, including workshops under the name *PoemCatchers*. Later this year she will take up her Hawthornden award, and in May 2013 her second collection, *Rise*, will be published by Cinnamon Press. (First collection *The Plucking Shed*, Cinnamon Press 2010).

Website: [www.poemcatchers.com](http://www.poemcatchers.com)

**Abegail Morley** is poetry editor for *The New Writer*. Her collection, *How to Pour Madness into a Teacup* (Cinnamon Press) was shortlisted for the [Forward Prize](#) Best First Collection (2010), her second collection, *Snow Child* is published by Pindrop Press. Her forthcoming chapbook, based on the life of the artist George Grosz will be published in 2013. She was nominated for the London Best New Poet Award and has won or been placed in a number of competitions. Her work appears in a wide range of journals and anthologies including *Agenda*; *Poetry Review*; *Poetry Salzburg Review*; *The SHOp* and *The Spectator*.

**Sue Roe's** poetry is published widely in journals and anthologies including *New Poetries III*, Edited by Michael Schmidt (Carcanet), *London Rivers* (Paekakariri Press), *New Poetry Quarterly*, *New Writing*, *The Rialto*, *Paintbrush* and *Agenda*. Her book of poems, *The Spitfire Factory*, is published by Dale House Press. Also a biographer, Sue is the author of *Gwen John : A Life* (Vintage). Her latest book is *The Private Lives of the Impressionists* (Vintage), which has been translated into seven languages.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2-3.15pm, Courtyard: *Four Shades of Translation***

**Readings of translations/versions and discussion**

**Timothy Adès** is a rhyming translator-poet, from French, Spanish, and German, widely published. His books to date are: *How to be a Grandfather* by Victor Hugo, and *33 Sonnets of the Resistance* and *The Madness of Amadis* by Jean Cassou. *Amadis* is published by Agenda Editions. Due next year, another Resistance poet, Robert Desnos. Timothy has won various awards. Other favourites are Brecht, Alfonso Reyes, Angelos Sikelianós and Louise Labé. Work from older poets (out of copyright) is on the Brindin website.

**Susan Wicks** was born in Kent, England, in 1947. She read French at the Universities of Hull and Sussex, and wrote a D. Phil. thesis on André Gide. She has lived and worked in France, Ireland and America and has taught at University College Dublin and the University of Kent. She is the author of several collections of poetry including *Singing Underwater* (1992), which won the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival Prize, and *The Clever Daughter* (1996), which was shortlisted for both the T.S. Eliot and Forward Prizes, and she was included in the Poetry Society's 'New Generation Poets' promotion in 1994. A short memoir, *Driving My Father*, was published in 1995. She is also the author of two novels, *The Key* (1997) and *Little Thing* (1998). Her most recent book is a translation of Valérie Rouzeau's poetry, entitled *Cold Spring in Winter* (2009). It was shortlisted for the 2010 Griffin Poetry Prize (Canada) and the 2010 Weidenfeld Translation Prize.

**Josephine Balmer's** collections and translations include *The Word for Sorrow* (Salt, 2009), *Chasing Catullus* (Bloodaxe, 2004), *Catullus: Poems of Love and Hate* (Bloodaxe, 2004), *Classical Women Poets* (Bloodaxe, 1996) and *Sappho: Poems & Fragments* (Bloodaxe, 1992). She has written widely on poetry and translation for publications such as the *Observer*, the *Independent on Sunday*, the *TLS* and the *New Statesman*, and currently reviews poetry for the *Times*. Her study of classical translation and poetic versioning, *Piecing Together the Fragments*, will be published by OUP in 2013.

**Siân Thomas** lives in East Sussex. Her work has appeared in *Agenda*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Poetry Wales*, *The Rialto* and *Swamp* and was included in the anthology *London Rivers* (Paekakariki Press: 2011). She holds an MA in Creative Writing and Authorship from the University of Sussex and is a member of the collaborative arts group Four Quarters. *Ovid's Echo*, her first pamphlet, was published earlier this year by Paekakariki Press.

**Getting Yourself into Print, 6-7pm, Courtyard: discussion between established editors and questions from the floor.**

**Simon Jenner** was born in Cuckfield, Sussex in 1959. After the universities of Leeds, then Cambridge, where his PhD topic was 'Oxford Poetry of the 1940s', he published two bilingual volumes in Germany. His British debut collection, *About Bloody Time*, was published by Waterloo Press in 2006. He has been Director of Survivors' Poetry since 2003 and from 2008-10, a Royal Literary Fund Fellow, at the Universities of East London and Chichester. A volume extending the imaginative heteronyms of Fernando Pessoa (1888-1935) was published by Perdika Press in 2010. A further Waterloo volume is forthcoming in 2012. An Agenda Edition of poems about composers and music will appear in 2013. His poetry and articles appear in journals such as *Agenda*, *Angel Exhaust*, *PN Review*.

**John F. Deane** was born on Achill Island in 1943. He founded Poetry Ireland and *The Poetry Ireland Review*, 1979; published several collections of poetry and some fiction. He won the *O'Shaughnessy Award for Irish Poetry*, the *Marten Toonder Award* for Literature, Golden Key award from Serbia, and the Laudomia Bonanni Prize from L'Aquila, Italy. He was shortlisted for both the T.S.Eliot prize and The Irish Times Poetry Now Award, and he won residencies in Bavaria, Monaco and Paris. He is a member of Aosdána. His latest collection of poems is *Eye of the Hare*, (Carcanet 2011). *Snow falling on Chestnut Hill: New & Selected Poems* is due from Carcanet in October 2012.

**Sudeep Sen** (biography above)

**Patricia McCarthy** (Patsy Cornish, former Head of English St. Leonards/Mayfield School) is the editor of *Agenda* poetry journal. Her poems have been widely anthologised. A collection, *Survival*, was published in the US in 1978, and *A Second Skin* came out from Peterloo Poets in 1985. Her new collection, *Rodin's Shadow*, is being launched in this Festival on Sunday. *Around the Mulberry Bush: New & Selected Poems* will be published by Waterloo Press in 2013. A pamphlet, *Trodden Before*, will also appear in 2013.

**Storm Houses, 8-9pm, Courtyard: poetry readings**

**Tim Liardet** has produced seven collections of poetry. His third collection *Competing with the Piano Tuner* was a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation and long-listed for the Whitbread Poetry Prize and his fourth— *To the God of Rain*— a Poetry Book Society Recommendation for Spring 2003. *The Blood Choir*, his fifth collection, won an Arts Council England Writer's Award as a collection-in-progress, was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation for Summer 2006 and -short-listed for the TS Eliot Prize for best collection of that year. His pamphlet—*Priest Skear*—appeared in 2010 and was the Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice for Winter of that year; *The Storm House*, his seventh collection, was published by Carcanet in June 2011. *Madame Sasoo Goes Bathing*, a pamphlet is due in 2013; his next full collection from Carcanet in September 2014; his *New and Selected Poems*, from the same publisher, in September 2015. He is Professor of Poetry at Bath Spa University.

**Peter Carpenter** is married with two daughters and lives in Kent. He has previously published five widely-praised collections and his work has been much anthologised. He has tutored, mentored and worked for many organisations including Survivors' Poetry, The Arvon Foundation and The Poetry Trust. He is a regular reviewer and essayist for *London Magazine* and other literary journals and has co-directed Worple Press since 1997. Peter was made a Visiting Fellow at the University of Warwick in 2001 and was Creative Writing Fellow at the University of Reading during 2007-08; he currently teaches at Tonbridge School. *Just Like That*, his New and Selected Poems, is published by Smith/Doorstop this month.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30-3.30pm, Chapel: poetry reading**

**John F Deane** (see biog above)

**4-5pm, Courtyard, Launch of Patricia McCarthy's (Patsy Cornish's) poetry collection, Rodin's Shadow: a dramatic reading in six voices**

(see biog above)

**5.30-6pm, Courtyard, Young Agenda Broadsheet Poets:**

**Adam Wyeth, William Searle, Ben Lerner**

**Celtic singing** by **Cíara Considine** (afternoon and evening)

**Cíara Considine** grew up in Kent and gained a scholarship with the Kent Music to study the flute and piano. She was a member of the Kent Youth Orchestra, the Kent Youth Choir and the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. She gained a Masters Degree in Piano Performance from the Royal Northern College of Music where she also gained her Bachelors Degree and Post-Graduate Diploma in the Piano. In 2008 she explored her Irish heritage in

making CD albums of Irish folk music, recording her vocals, piano, flute, tin whistle and lyre. Receiving good reviews and radio-play, both albums 'O Mo Chroi' and 'Beyond The Waves' are selling well on all the major online distributors such as iTunes. Ciara also recorded flutes at Abbey Road Studios for the new West End musical '1916'. She teaches singing at Benenden School and at the Kent Academy of Music and she conducts the Vigo Singers and Kent County Choirs. Ciara's website is [www.ciaraconsidinemusic.com](http://www.ciaraconsidinemusic.com)

**7pm, Courtyard, Grand Finale: Launch of Celtic Mists issue of *Agenda***  
Reception and drinks

**Artists exhibited:**

**Carolyn Trant** is an artist whose medium is Artists Books, taking a fresh look at myths and stories from popular culture, using her own texts or in collaboration with poets such as David Harsent, Judith Kazantzis, Nicki Jackowska and James Simpson. Her work is in private and public collections across Europe and the USA, including the British Library, Tate and V & A. She lives in Lewes, Sussex.

**Brian Whelan** was born in London of Irish immigrant parents. Since his training at The Royal Academy he has felt compelled to paint from memory the city of his childhood from an East Anglian studio – depicting a sublime comedy of life's glories and tragedies on both religious and secular plains. His work graces the walls of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, Suffolk, England; St Martins-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Sq., London; The Parador Dos Reis Catolicos, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; St Louis de Montfort Language School, Czestochowa, Poland; and CD covers for bands including The Popes with Shane MacGowan. Books featuring his work include: *Myth of Return*; *King Edmund – Saint and Martyr*; *London Irish Painting* and *The Exchange* and are available through [www.brianwhelan.co.uk](http://www.brianwhelan.co.uk). His line drawings work as first verses to Joseph Horgan's poems in *An Unscheduled Life* (Agenda Editions, 2012).

**Johnny Marsh** is a visual and text-based artist living in East Sussex. Qualified as an Art Psychotherapist, he is currently working for the local Mental Health Charity, Sussex Oakleaf, and pursuing his Artistic practice. His works exhibited here are in collaboration with Patricia McCarthy's *Rodin's Shadow*, extending and illuminating the themes.



Mayfield

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St Leonards-Mayfield School,  
The Old Palace, Mayfield, East Sussex  
TN20 6PH

# AGENDA

[www.agendapoetry.co.uk](http://www.agendapoetry.co.uk)