

NEIL ROLLINSON

The Ecstasy of St Saviours Avenue
(Valentine's Night)

Tonight the tenement smells of oysters
and semen, chocolate and rose petals.
The windows of every flat are open
to cool us, the noise of our limberings
issues from every sash as if the building
was hyperventilating in the cold
February air. We can hear the moans
of the Rossiters, the Hendersons,
the babysitters in number 3; a gentle
pornography rousing us like an aphrodisiac.
For once the house is harmonious, we rock
in our beds; our rhythms hum
in the stone foundations.



 We shall have to be careful;
like soldiers who must break step on a bridge.
We stagger our climaxes one by one,
from the basement flat to the attic room,
a pounding of mattresses moves through the house
in a long, multiple, communal orgasm.
The building sighs like a whorehouse.
We lie in our sheets watching the glow
of street lights colour the sky; the chimneys
blow their smoke like the mellow exhalations
of post-coital cigarettes.

SIMON ARMITAGE : THE DEAD SEA POEMS : FABER £6.99
 GLYN MAXWELL : REST FOR THE WICKED : BLOODAXE £6.95
 IAN DUHIG : THE MERSEY GOLDFISH : BLOODAXE £6.95
 SEAN O'BRIEN : GHOST TRAIN : OXFORD POETS : £6.99



Armitage begins **The Dead Sea Poems** strongly: the title poem looks like the start of something important, in the voice of the boy who found the jars full of scrolls: they contained 'poems written in my own hand', but he sold them cheap. 'Knowing now the price of my early art // I have gone some way towards taking it all / to heart' is a veiled but not exactly obscure statement about early talent, and becoming serious while maintaining if possible 'that innocent, / everyday, effortless verse, of which this // is the first.' There's something very serious coming through the rest of the book: recurrent themes and images of death, pain, crucifixion, and dogs emblematic of something within humanity: 'No dog howls like a dog kicked out at night. / Try looking a dog like that in the eye' (**Before You Cut Loose**). His rhythms and diction span the liturgy and the playground: the rhythms are written into the shape of each poem without being noticeably formalistic, with plenty of the internal rhymes that sew an Armitage poem together; while vocabularies from dialect, jargon and the church multiply textures of sound and meaning.

There are enjoyable and moving poems with various combinations of these elements, like **On an Owd Piktcha (from tJerman)**, a religious dialect poem which gets beyond the standard Bluff-Yorkshire-Mystery-Play feeling through technical deftness in a small and simple space. By contrast, **Cover Version** (written for the **After Ovid** anthology) is creditable but unsatisfying. Diction and tone are unresolved, with standard plain language getting 'poetic' — 'The waves have not the taste / of wine' — plus another language altogether, looking awkwardly introduced: 'at which he sammed her up / and plodged into the tide'. This may be cod-dialect rather than real, or it may just look like that, but either way it's not a success. Sometimes a poem leads up to a cadence or a selfconsciously strong last line, often separated by a stanza break of its own — 'because the worm won't know your make of bone from mine' (**The Two of Us**), 'better by half to take a sideways view, / take a tip from me and deface yourselves' (**Goalkeeper with a Cigarette**); or the powerful ending of **A Week and a Fortnight**:

'Days for the dirty, life for the lost,
 the acts of mercy and the stations of the
 cross,
 the seven acts of mercy and the fourteen
 stations of the cross.'

This kind of final cadence may even seem too strong, and overbalance the poem itself on re-reading. This example is best read aloud, the earlier lines that look flatter on the page working at speed directly on the ear, but I don't mean the poem is slighter because of this: it takes on its full strength through sound.

The main disappointment in **The Dead Sea Poems** is the long piece **Five Eleven Ninety Nine**, on the last Bonfire Night of the millennium: 128 quatrains full of beautifully constructed detail, it's about something that inevitably ends with a whimper (I don't think that's giving away too much), and it feels too thinly spread. An apocalyptic tone gets cranked up now and then but it is an anti-apocalyptic poem which has too much whimper all through its length, and it sags. Nevertheless I'm sure I'll re-read it. We're bound to feel like this in November 1999:

'We wait, listless, aimless now it's over,
 ready for what follows, what comes after,
 stood beneath an iron sky together,
 awkwardly at first, until whenever.'

Glyn Maxwell can certainly hit the spot, for instance in **Birth Day** with a winning strategy for handling subjective experience. He places our coming to consciousness in the objective frame of why the world we first knew seems so right: because it led to us. The poem's Majoresque world of midwives on bicycles is perfect for this nostalgic childhood megalomania, placed among the broader tyranny of the suburban. Maxwell's relationship to the suburban, being the poet of Welwyn Garden City, connects with his relation to laddishness in poems like **Garden City Quatrains**: and writing about where you're from takes a tricky balancing of scepticism and reclaiming. The vehicle that Maxwell finds most serviceable for this is the Audenesque, but along with the brilliance of Young Wistan there's the

LISTINGS

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sample from Poetry
London Newsletter - if
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P.O. Box 4LF, London



The first section is a **GENERAL GUIDE & SUBJECT INDEX** for Londonwide and national information, or where location is not so relevant. This also cross references to the geographical sections which follow: for London the alphabetical **BOROUGH LISTINGS**, and for outside London the **SOUTHEAST** and **FURTHER AFIELD** sections.

Due to the nature of London life almost inevitably these listings will be out of date by the time you read them. Please try to ring contacts wherever possible to confirm readings/workshops/courses. We apologise in advance for any mistakes that might have crept in. Any feedback from readers and information about new or defunct groups / courses / venues etc is always welcome: contact Peter Daniels, Listings Editor, 35 Benthall Rd, London N16 7AR (0181 806 6121, fax possible but ring first; email pdaniels@easynet.co.uk).

DISABILITY ACCESS info is marked with a . except where we know there is no access, marked with a ♦. If you need any of this information in **LARGE PRINT** contact Peter Daniels (as above) about possibilities.

GENERAL GUIDE & SUBJECT INDEX:

ARTS:

See borough listings for details of local Arts Officers etc. **LONDON ARTS BOARD** is our Regional Arts Board, and funds these listings: 133 Long Acre, WC2E 9AF (0171 2401313). **LONDON INDEPENDENT ARTS DIGEST** is a mine of information about what's going on: Russell Gilderson (editor), 26 Top House Rise, Chingford E4 7EE (0181 529 6402). **NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE ARTS** Francis House, Francis St, SW1P 1DE (0171 828 4448).

ASIAN :

ARTASIA DIRECTORY: M L Photay, 43 The Grove, Gravesend DA12 1DP (01474 353427). **ARTSLINE: THE ASIAN PROJECT** 54 Chalton St NW1 1HS (0171 388 2474, minicom 388 2227, fax 388 2653) resources for Asian deaf & disabled people. **THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE** Kensington High St, London W8 6NQ (0171 603 4535. Fax: 0171 602 7374) also contains Commonwealth Literature Library Mon-Sat 10.00-4.45. **IMMIGRANT POETS ASSOCIATION** PO Box 289, Southampton SO14 0ZN. **NEHRU CENTRE** at Indian High Commission, 8 South Audley St, W1Y 5DQ (0171 491 3567). See also CAMDEN — Asian Women Writers (London Women's Centre). HARINGEY—Tagore Centre. HOUNDSLOW—Women's Theatre Workshops. TOWER HAMLETS— Bengali Literary Society; Multicultural Arts Consortium. WALTHAM FOREST— Asian Literary Circle. WANDSWORTH— Asian

Writers Workshop.

BLACK / AFRICAN / CARIBBEAN :

AFRICA CENTRE 38 King St, London WC2E (0171 836 1973, Book Centre 0171 240 6649). **BLACK ARTS ALLIANCE** 111 Burton Rd, Withington, Manchester M20 1HZ (0161 445 4168) tour workshops on racist stereotypes, e.g. one "exploring the body through poetry and movement". **CENTERPRISE** is now funded as a resource for New Writing and Black Literature all over North & North East London: events at Centerprise listed under HACKNEY; other events running in CAMDEN, HARINGEY, ISLINGTON. **THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE** Kensington High St, London W8 6NQ (0171 603 4535. Fax: 0171 602 7374) also contains Commonwealth Literature Library Mon-Sat 10.00-4.45. **IMMIGRANT POETS ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 289 Southampton SO14 0ZN. **QORAAL** is London's Somali newspaper and has a poetry page (Somali or English) send writing to Haamud Duale, 16 Dalston Lane Hackney E8. See also CAMDEN—(Adult Ed) Camden Black Sisters Centre. HACKNEY—Centerprise; Institute for African Alternatives. HARINGEY—Centerprise Satellites; New Beacon Bookshop. LAMBETH—Spread the Word. LEWISHAM—Nka-Iban. TOWER HAMLETS—Multicultural Arts Consortium. WANDSWORTH—Apples & Snakes. WESTMINSTER— Yaa Asantewa Arts Centre. SOUTHEAST— Northampton Black Women's Writing Group. FURTHER AFIELD— Huddersfield: Black Literature Project.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE see POETRY SOCIETY; SOUTH BANK (Poetry Library); SCHOOLS; YOUTH; also CAMDEN— Adult Ed (City Lit). HACKNEY— Centerprise. ISLINGTON—Adult Ed. KENSINGTON— Adult Ed. RICHMOND—Adult Ed. SUTTON— Adult Ed.

COURSES & WORKSHOPS :

Courses inevitably overlap with Workshop groups. See also under Borough listings for Adult Education courses run by LEAs and various Institutes. **CORRESPONDENCE: OPEN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS** Affiliated to the Open University. Houndhill, Worsbrough, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 6TU: info line: 0891 168902. **WRITERS BUREAU** calls itself "Britain's leading Creative Writing Correspondence College": 7 Dale St, Manchester M1 1JB (0161 228 2362). **CHRYSALIS** : The Poet in You. Courses, workshops & one-to-one sessions; postal advice and events around the country with Jay Ramsey, Carolyn Finlay & others. Enquiries with SAE to Chrysalis, 71 Painswick Rd, Cheltenham GL50 2EX (01242 528363 or 01452 812979). **3C FOLIO** is a way of exchanging constructive criticism by correspondence, free, with members all over UK:

details with SAE from 3C Folio Organiser, 46 The Avenue, St Georges, Bristol BS5 8HW.

DEGREE / DIPLOMA: The **British Council's Literature Department** publish **Postgraduate Study in British Literature** from Information Officer: Bridgette Laws 0171 389 4070. British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN. See also BEXLEY—Rose Bruford College. CAMDEN—Central Sch of Speech & Drama. HARINGEY—Middlesex Univ. SOUTHEAST—Chichester Inst; Univ of Sussex; Tonbridge Univ Centre. FURTHER AFIELD—Glamorgan Univ, Lancaster Univ, Poets House, Sheffield Hallam Univ.

RESIDENTIAL: for fullest details see British Council's **Literature and Creative Writing Short Courses & Summer Schools in Britain** Most famous are **Arvon** at Totleigh Barton, Sheepwash, Devon EX21 5NS (0140 923 338); Lumb Bank, Hebden Bridge, West Yorks HX7 6DF (01422 843714); Moniak Mhor, Teavarron, Kiharity, Beauly, Inverness-shire IV4 7HT (01463 74675). For others see under SOUTH EAST and FURTHER AFIELD.

DISABLED PEOPLE ✖ :

ARTSLINE London's information service on access to the arts & entertainment for all disabled people: 54 Chalton St NW1 1HS (0171 388 2227, also minicom; fax 388 2653). Artsline publishes **DAIL MAGAZINE: Disability Arts in London** jointly with **LONDON DISABILITY ARTS FORUM**: 34 Osnaburgh St, NW1 3ND (0171 916 6351, minicom 916 5484, fax 916 5396). **DAM: DISABILITY ARTS MAGAZINE** run by disabled people, in print & tape: 10 Woad Lane, Great Coates, Grimsby DN37 9NH (01472 280031). **INSIDE OUT** Writing project for housebound people, finding opportunities through poetry and prose. Contact Dei Treanor, Rhondda Community Arts, Parc and Dare Theatre, Treorchy, CF42 6NL (01443 776090). **WRITE JUNCTION:** Occasional courses, readings & workshops integrating disabled and able-bodied writers. Details Carolyn 0181 969 3565. See also BROMLEY—Disability Arts in Bromley. HACKNEY—Centerprise (Finding a Voice); N16 Writers. **DISABILITY ACCESS** info in listings marked with a . except where we know there is no access, marked with a ♦.

EXPERIMENTAL: NEW RIVER PROJECT - Poetry and performance events; publishers and distributors of poetry books, tapes and records. Bob Cobbing 89a Petherton Rd, London N5 1QT (0171 226 2657). See also CAMDEN—Sub-voicive, Writers Forum. KENSINGTON—Poets/Writers.

FRENCH: INSTITUT FRANÇAIS 17 Queensberry PI SW7 2JR (0171 589 6211).

GAY & LESBIAN:

GAY AUTHORS WORKSHOP, is an association of lesbians, gay men and bisexual people who are creative writers. They hold monthly meetings at different places in the London Area to meet, to read, discuss and criticise their work in a constructive way, and to share information about publishing outlets and competitions. At least half the meetings are wheelchair accessible, transport can be arranged from East London. Although London based they are a national organisation. Quarterly newsletter (print & tape). Subscriptions currently cost: £5.00 a year, £2.00 unwaged. All enquiries, information etc: SAE/Tape/Braille to: Kathryn Byrd, Gemma, BM Box 5700, WC1N 3XX. **QUEER SCRIBES:** Joe Lavelle c/o MASG, PO Box 11, Liverpool L69 1SN. See also CAMDEN - Adult Ed, (Lesbian Writing), Gays the Word bookshop.

GERMAN: GOETHE INSTITUTE Princes Gate, Exhibition Rd, SW7 2PH (0171 411 3400).

GREEK: FOUNDATION FOR HELLENIC CULTURE 60 Brook St W1Y 1YB (0171499 9826). See also CAMDEN - Hellenic Book Service.

HAIKU:

BRITISH HAIKU SOCIETY Sinodun, Shalford, Braintree, Essex CM7 5HN. Organise 2nd National Haiku Conference, 12-14 April, Daiwa Japan House, 13-14 Cornwall Terrace NW1 (Baker St tube).

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTES Events celebrating their poets etc are often promoted by national embassies or the equivalents of the British Council; tickets may have to be acquired beforehand. **AFRICA CENTRE** 38 King St, London WC2E (0171 836 1973, Book Centre 0171 240 6649). **THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE** Kensington High St, London W8 6NQ (0171 603 4535. FAX: 0171 602 7374) also contains Commonwealth Literature Library Mon-Sat 10.00-4.45. **HISPANIC & LUSO BRAZILIAN COUNCIL** 2 Belgrave Sq SW1 (0171 235 2303) Membership organisation, with library and education service. **ACCADEMIA ITALIANA** 39 Belgrave Sq, SW1 (0171 235 0303). **DAIWA ANGLO-JAPANESE FOUNDATION**, 13-14 Cornwall Terrace

NW1 (0171 486 4348). **FOUNDATION FOR HELLENIC CULTURE** 60 Brook St W1Y 1YB (0171499 9826). **GOETHE INSTITUTE** Princes Gate, Exhibition Rd, SW7 2PH (0171 411 3400). **INSTITUT FRANÇAIS** 17 Queensberry PI SW7 2JR (0171589 6211). **NEHRU CENTRE** at Indian High Commission, 8 South Audley St, W1Y 5DQ (0171 491 3567).

IRISH:

See CAMDEN—Four Provinces Bookshop. ISLINGTON—Green Ink Bookshop, Green Ink Workshops. SUTTON—Whitehall Bookshop. FURTHER AFIELD—Irish Writers Centre, Dublin; Poets House, Portmuck.

ITALIAN: ACCADEMIA ITALIANA 39 Belgrave Sq, SW1 (0171 235 0303).

JAPANESE: DAIWA ANGLO-JAPANESE FOUNDATION, 13-14 Cornwall Terrace NW1 (0171 486 4348, Baker St Tube). 2nd National Haiku Conference, 12-14 April, see under HAIKU.

LEARNING DIFFICULTIES:

TOWER HAMLETS—Eastside's Chat Show Writers Group.

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES:

The Poetry Library, see under SOUTH BANK; see also INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTES. Public libraries are listed under Boroughs; see also in CAMDEN—British Library, Little Magazines Library, Keats Grove. HAMMERSMITH—Records/Tapes at Public Library. KENSINGTON—National Sound Archive. FURTHER AFIELD—Basil Bunting Centre, Northern Poetry Library, Scottish Poetry Library.

LITERARY SOCIETIES:

THE ALLIANCE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES, Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret St, B3 3BS (0121 236 3591) compiles a list of societies mostly for appreciation of particular authors or poets. A few examples: **WH AUDEN SOC** c/o Kathleen Bell, 37 Redwood Cres, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1JF. **BETJEMAN SOCIETY** Philippa Davies, 2 The Crescent, St Stephens, Canterbury CT2 7AG. **BURNS FEDERATION** W A Anderson, c/o Dick Inst, Elmbank Ave, Kilmarnock KA1 3BA. **THOMAS HARDY SOC** PO Box 1438, Dorchester DT1 1YH (01305 251501). **HOPKINS SOC** Daniel Owen Centre, Eral Rd, Mold CH7 1AP. **HOUSMAN SOC** Chairman Jim Page, 80 New Rd, Bromsgrove, Worcs B60 2LA (01527 74136). **KEATS-SHELLEY MEMORIAL ASSOC** Mrs C M Gee c/o Keats House, Keats Grove NW3 2RR. **WILFRED OWEN SOC**, Contact Peter Dodson, 117 The Village, Stockton-on-Forest, York, YO3 9UP. **TENNYSON SOC** Miss J Jefferson, Central Library, Free School Lane, Lincoln LN2 1EZ. **DYLAN THOMAS SOC** John Rhys Thomas 01792 464 967.

MENTAL HEALTH:

SURVIVORS' POETRY is a literature & performance resource managed & controlled by survivors of the mental health system. Provides workshops for poets at all levels of experience in a friendly supportive environment; poetry & music performances in virtually all London Boroughs; outreach, support & networking; publishes anthologies of Survivor poets' work. Contact Debbie McNamara, Survivors' Poetry, 34 Osnaburgh Street, NW1 3ND (0171 916 5317). See Survivors groups in BRENT, BROMLEY, CAMDEN, HAMMERSMITH, LAMBETH, NEWHAM. Other groups etc see CAMDEN—Adult Ed (Mary Ward, Women Survivors of Mental Distress), NEWHAM—Newham Mind. WESTMINSTER—Adult Ed (Portugal Prints)

OLDER PEOPLE: UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE Creative Writing Network, 21 Darlington Lane, Norton, Stockton TS20 1EP (01642 554508); see also in BRENT and MERTON. Other groups etc see BRENT—Adult Ed (Over 50s). SUTTON—Parasol. WESTMINSTER—Adult Ed (Over 60s).

POEMS ON THE BUSES organised by **big wide words** on routes 38 & 73. Alex 0171 912 2236 (Mon & Tues) PO Box 6232, London W14 8GD.

POEMS ON THE UNDERGROUND New set by **Anne Bradstreet, John Dryden, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Hugo Williams, Louise Glück, Gavin Ewart**. Copies of posters are available from the London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, London WC2. 0171 379 6344) **Poems on Underground 95** pamphlet £1.99. Launch concert 14 Feb see CAMDEN. London Underground provides advertising spaces and pays production costs. The British Council displays the posters across the world, and the programme is supported by The British Library.

POETRY BOOK SOCIETY was founded by TS Eliot and others in 1953. Each quarter a team of selectors (noted writers or critics) choose one outstanding book for PBS members from those about to be published. Members receive the four books chosen within the cost of their annual subscription fee. In addition to the Choices there are recommendations, special offers, a quarterly poetry bulletin of features and statements from

the selected poets. Annual anthology of new poems chosen by a leading editor. For full details of subscriptions write to PBS, FREEPOST, Book House, 45 East Hill, London SW18 2BR (0181 870 8403).

POETRY LIBRARY see **SOUTH BANK CENTRE**, below.

POETRY SOCIETY, 22 Betterton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9BU; email poetrysoc@bbcnc.org.uk (0171 240 4810, fax: 0171 240 4818). Information officer is Rachel Bourke. The Society is a membership organisation. It publishes **Poetry Review** and the newsletter **Poetry News**, both quarterly. On the Internet is the **Poetry Map**, "an interactive information and imagination service on all aspects of poetry": find it at <http://www.bbcnc.org.uk/> / online / poetry. **Education Dept** is very active with programmes for schools; **Young Poetry Pack** is new project with Radio 4. Lottery funding is enabling the premises to become **The Poetry Place**, a café, reading space etc later in 1996. **Open readings** are suspended while the Poetry Place is built, but **events** are also around the country, including reduced admission for members at some literature festivals.

PRINTING & PUBLISHING:

Photocopying in the High St is getting cheaper, with 4p copies at many newsagents, but for runs of pamphlets, or producing your complete works, you might not be popular for the time you'd need to spend on the machines. **BOOKPRINT** Riverside Cottage, Old Gt North Rd, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR (01733 230797, fax 230751) have a well-thought-out package for self publishing incl typesetting. See also under **CAMDEN—Cop Shop**; **Printing Centre**. **ENFIELD—Enfield Arts Development**. **ISLINGTON—Book Factory**. **ASSOCIATION OF LITTLE PRESSES** Present Coordinator Stan Trevor, 30 Greenhill, Hampstead High St, London NW3 5UA (0171 435 1889), retiring soon. Newsletter ed Tony Rollinson, 36 Garnier St, Portsmouth PO1 1PD. **AUTHOR-PUBLISHER NETWORK**: "An association of writers who publish or want to publish and sell their own work... a source of shared information, new ideas and encouragement". Membership £12 a year. Secretary, 7 Kingsland Rd, West Mersea Essex CO5 8RB. **FEDERATION OF WORKER WRITERS & COMMUNITY PUBLISHERS** PO Box 540 Burslem, Stoke on Trent ST6 6DR (01782 822327); contact FWWCP for details of **Festival of Writing 1996** in Loughborough 12-14 April. **NATIONAL POETRY FOUNDATION** Johnathan Clifford continues his campaign against vanity publishers, details of rogue competitions etc from 27 Mill Rd, Fareham PO16 0TH. **PASSWORD** 23 New Mount St, Manchester M4 4DE (0161 953 4009) organise courses in publishing. Some are running with discount for Poetry Society members: contact Rachel Bourke at Poetry Soc, 0171 240 4810. **POETS & SMALL PRESS FESTIVAL**: will be hosted by Iron Press in Newcastle, May 17-19: contact Peter Mortimer 0191 253 1901. **SMALL PRESS GROUP** has wound itself up; **SMALL PRESS CENTRE** continues at Middlesex University — see under **HARINGEY**. **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** 45 Poland St London W1V 4AU (0171 437 1019) also run creative writing workshops. See also **POETRY BOOK SOCIETY** above.

REGULAR READING & PERFORMANCE VENUES:

CLUB VERNACULAR is now an occasional event. Details 0181 946 6718. **PER VERSE** Performance club has no single venue —details 0171 609 2549. For others see under **SOUTH BANK CENTRE** in this section., and under Boroughs: **CAMDEN—Blue Nose**; **Pentameters**; **Subvoicive**; **Torriano**; **Vertical Images**. **CROYDON—Poets Anonymous**. **HACKNEY—Farrago Zoo Slam**; **Pirate Jenny**; **Poetry on my Shoulders**. **ISLINGTON—Big Word**. **KENSINGTON—Poets/Writers**; **Terrible Beauty**. **LAMBETH—Brixton Poets**. **SOUTHWARK—Ambit**; **Apples & Snakes at the Civic**; **The Old Operating Theatre**; **Words & Music**. **TOWER HAMLETS—Approach**. **WANDSWORTH—Apples & Snakes at BAC**. **WESTMINSTER—Bunjy's**; **Hard Edge**; **Jermyn St Theatre**; **Pull My Daisy**.

SCHOOLS:

POETRY ACTIVE: A different approach to poetry in the classroom, or with other groups of all ages & abilities. Runs informal workshops, develops curriculum links with other subjects. Teacher training incl in-service. Contact Phil Rampton, 49 Pagehurst Rd, Croydon, CR0 6NS (0181 654 3603). See also under **CHILDREN**; **POETRY SOCIETY**; **SOUTH BANK CENTRE** (Poetry Library); and under **HARINGEY—Tagore Centre**; **LAMBETH—Spread the Word**.

SONGS:

Alliance of Songwriters & Lyricists, membership free, 77 Abbey Fields, Telford, TF3 2AT.

SOUTH BANK CENTRE contains the **POETRY LIBRARY**, founded by the Arts Council in 1953 as an inspired effort to support and promote modern British poetry. Now the most comprehensive and accessible collection of 20th century poetry in Britain, housed next to the performance space, the Voice Box.

A national resource, the Poetry Library is open to everyone, with free

membership. The library has 37,000 volumes of 20th century poetry in the English language and pre-20th century poetry translated by modern poets, and it also stocks hundreds of poetry magazines, from glossy international publications to photocopied pamphlets. Usually an exhibition (e.g. posters etc). Listen to poetry on cassette, record and video at special listening and viewing stations, or study the unique archives of press cuttings, reviews and photographs. Pick up the library's lists of poetry competitions, bookshops, publishers' and writers' groups; teachers can bring classes to plunder the many shelves of **children's** books, and use the library's Poetry Work Pack. The library is open seven days a week from 11.00 - 8.00 pm so there is no excuse. Royal Festival Hall Level 5 (red side). Librarian: Mary Enright (0171 921 0943 / 0664) for further details.

The **SOUTH BANK LITERATURE DEPT** organises literature festivals and readings mostly at the Voice Box but sometimes other South Bank venues. (0171 921 0906; unstepped access by private lift to Voice Box & Library, braille lift controls; details 0171 921 0926). Warning: **Voice Box seats are hard**. Why not bring a cushion?

Events are 7.30 unless stated, tickets £4 / £2.50, NB you must get tickets from RFH box office on ground floor — no tickets sold at the Voice Box door. Ring for full list of events: we don't have space for the fiction etc.

Tue 30 Jan **Douglas Oliver & Denise Riley**. Thur 8 Feb Purcell Rm **Tony Harrison** on film/poems, £6. Thur 15 Feb **Gwyneth Lewis & Lawrence Sail**. Sat 17 Feb 3pm **Jo Shapcott** on film form & poetry. Wed 21 Feb Atomic Lip - **Pink Sly, Patience Agbabi, Steve Tasane, The Speech Painter**. Thur 22 Feb QEH 11.30am **John Hegley & Jo Shapcott** with animated films of **Jan Svankmajer**. Tue 27 Feb **Peter Russell & Stephen Romer**. Wed 28 Feb Canadains **Nicole Brossard & Daphne Marlatt**. Sat 2 Mar "Off the Road with the Beats" talk by **Carolyn Cassady**. Sat 16 Mar "New Directions" day of talks on the Fifties incl 12.00 **Douglas Dunn** on **Amis, Enright, Larkin**.

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE:

HISPANIC & LUSO BRAZILIAN COUNCIL Canning House, 2 Belgrave Sq SW1 (0171 235 2303) Membership organisation, with library and education service.

TRAVEL, TRANSPORT, TOURS:

STEPPING OUT (guided walking tours) offers a variety of literary and historic walking tours led by qualified guides chosen for their knowledge and personality. For details, ring 0181 881 2933. Walks start from a tube station and take place whatever the weather and regardless of numbers.

TRAVEL THROUGH POETRY Visit places where the poets have lived, study their lives and read their poems. Places include Greece, Italy, France, Portugal as well as many in Britain. Also recitals (usually around Kensington area). Contact Linda Colin Wileman (0171 581 7004). see also **POEMS ON THE BUSES**, and **POEMS ON THE UNDERGROUND**, above; also **SOUTHEAST** and **FURTHER AFIELD** for courses away from London.

VISUAL ARTS: See **SOUTH BANK CENTRE** (Poetry Library); under **CAMDEN—British Library**; **SOUTHWARK—Edge Gallery**; **TOWER HAMLETS—Multicultural Consortium Poetry Festival**; **Workfortheyetodo**; **WESTMINSTER—Tate Gallery**.

WOMEN:

FEMALE EYE publish survey of support & services for women writers: **Female Eye**, Watersmead, Norwood Green Hall, Halifax HX38 8QX. **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** 45 Poland St London W1V 4AU (0171 437 1019) also run creative writing workshops. **WOMEN'S THEATRE WORKSHOP** Isleworth Public Hall, South St, Isleworth TW7 7BG (0181 560 3180) workshops last Autumn included **Poetry for Women with Patience Agbabi** — contact them to see if there's more poetry: announced for this season are **Writing for Asian Women** in Hounslow, **Creating Strong Female Characters** and **The Female Myth**. **WOMEN WRITERS NETWORK** meet 2nd Mons Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq WC1. Women only. Doors 6.00, talk at 7.30. Contact Lyn 0181 866 9891.

See also under **BRENT—Women & Words**. **CAMDEN—London Women's Centre**, incl Asian group; **Adult Ed** (Camden Black Sisters, City Lit, Mary Ward). **Silver Moon Bookshop**. **HACKNEY—Centerprise**, **Adult Ed**. **HARINGEY—Centerprise Satellites**. **ISLINGTON—Adult Ed**. **LEWISHAM—Nka Iban**; **Adult Ed** (Goldsmith's). **TOWER HAMLETS—Adult Ed**.

WORKSHOPS:

See **COURSES & WORKSHOPS**, other subjects for special interest listings, and local groups under London Boroughs.

YOUTH:

See under **BRENT—Bloomers**. **HACKNEY—Centerprise** (Girls Creative Project). **SUTTON—Creative writing class for 8 & over**. **WALTHAM FOREST—Crash**; and **Young Writers & Performers Club**.

BOROUGH LISTINGS (ALPHABETICAL)

After information on local groups, performance venues etc, headings for resources are: **ADULT EDUCATION:** local writing or appreciation courses run by Boroughs, colleges & institutes. **ARTS:** London Independent Arts Digest's **Arts Digest Guide** has been used for information on Arts officers etc in Boroughs, as contacts for local initiatives incl **funding** for projects. **BOOKSHOPS:** include some likely-looking ones listed in **The Bookshops of London** by Charles Frewin and Derek Lubner (Two Heads Publishing, £6.99) but shops can change suddenly in London. **LIBRARIES:** often the best source for information, but vary a lot. **PRINTERS** are included for one or two boroughs; resources may be available through your Borough 's Arts Officers (e.g. in Enfield). **Corrections & recommendations** from readers are encouraged (0181 806 6121).

**BARKING & DAGENHAM:
Outer London East, 19 on map**

ADULT EDUCATION : **Adult College of Barking & Dagenham**, Fanshawe Crescent, Dagenham, Essex RM9 (0181 595 3237) Creative Writing, Thur 9.30-11.15am. . Full disabled access and toilets.

ARTS : **Arts Development Officer**, Peggy Ralph, Civic Centre, Dagenham RM10 7BN (0181 252 8103). **Barking Arts Society:** Lester Clarke, 0181 597 8967.

BOOKSHOPS: James Smith, Vicarage Field Shopping Centre, Ripple Rd, Barking IG11 8DQ. Tel: 0181591 9090.

LIBRARY: Central Library, Barking, Essex IG11 7NB. (0181 517 8616)

**BARNET:
Outer London North, 13 on map**

ARNOS GROVE WRITING WORKSHOP details see under ENFIELD

ALL SAINTS ARTS CENTRE 122 Oakleigh Park North N20 9EZ (0181 445 8388) Occasional events, incl annual Barnet Competition reading.

HERGA POETS covers Barnet, Harrow, Hillingdon areas. See HARROW.

OLD BULL ARTS CENTRE 68 High St, Barnet EN5 5SJ (0181 449 0048). Occasional events. . access via ramp at rear, WC, hearing loop.

ADULT EDUCATION

Barnet College. For . disabled access contact 0181 275 2810. Wood St, EN5 4AZ (0181 440 6321) Creative writing Mon 7.30-9.30 (tutor not named); Thur 12.15-2.15 tutor Katherine Gallagher.

Hendon College Contact 0181200 8300; . disability info ext 2027. Creative writing classes at Flower Lane, Mill Hill NW7 2JN Tues 9.45 - 11.15am and Weds 1.00-3.00pm; Abbots Road, Burnt Oak HA8 OQR, Weds 7.30-9.30pm.

The Institute, Hampstead Garden Suburb Central Sq, NW11 7BN (0181 455 9951). Wheelchair . access limited, ring for advice. Creative Writing stage 1 Tue 7.00-9.00; stage 2 Mon 1.15-3.45; The Way of the Word Mon 9.30am-12.00; Writers Workshop Mon 7.00-9.30. Tutor for all is S Ribeiro.

WEA Classes in Barnet this year: no poetry writing but some literature study incl "Poetry of Our Time". Contact London District, 0171 387 8966.

ARTS: Arts Service Development Officer : Lloyd Gee, Educational Services, Friern Barnet Lane, N11 3DL (0181 359 3152); **Arts Educational Network** also c/o Lloyd Gee. **Arts Council:** Pam Edwards, Hon Sec, c/o All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Rd North, N20 9EZ (0181 445 8388).

LIBRARY: Central Reference library: Ravensfield House, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BE (0181 202 5625)

BEXLEY : Outer London South East, 21 on map

ADULT EDUCATION: WEA contact Sheila Mathieson 01322 558398. **Brampton Road AEC**, 5 Brampton Rd, Bexleyheath DA7 4EZ (0181 303 2541) Limited . disabled access; toilet. Hearing loop. WEA Creative Writing class Mon 7.45-9.45, tutor Eric Treppass. **Crayford Manor House**, Mayplace Road East, Crayford, DA1 4HB (01322 521463). . Disabled access limited, some ramps, toilet (outside). Loop system. Creative Writing, Tues 10.00-11.45am, tutor Eric Treppass. Writing for Pleasure Tues 1.15-3.15pm. WEA Creative Writing Thur 7.45-9.45 tutor Brian Jones. **Sidcup Arts & AEC** Alma Rd, Sidcup DA14 4ED (0181 300 1056) . Wheelchair ramps most of ground floor, toilets. Writer's Workshop Wed 10.00-12.00, tutor Brian Jones.

Rose Bruford College, Lamorbey Park, Sidcup DA15 9DF (0181 300 3024) offers a BA Hons course in Theatre Writing, validated by Univ of Kent.

ARTS: Arts & Leisure Services: Marilyn Lister, Chief Leisure Services Officer, Directorate of Education & Leisure, Hillview Drive, Welling DA16 3RY (0181 303 7777 x4494). **Arts Council.** Suzanne Knowles, Sidcup Arts & Adult Ed Centre, Alma Rd, Sidcup DA14 4ED (0181 309 5977). **Arts Forum**, John Stephens, Colyers Primary School, Colyers Lane, Erith DA8 3PB (01322 350920).

LIBRARIES: Central Library, Townley Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7HJ (0181 301 1066 / 5151)

**BRENT :
Outer London North West, 12 on map**

BLOOMERS. a poetry group for 16-25's. Send a selection of your poetry together with name, address and phone to : Brendan O'Neil, 78 Mollison Way, Edgware, HA8 5QW [entry unconfirmed after enquiry letter].

SURVIVORS workshops & performances for survivors of the mental health system. Events at Brent User Group, Ashford Passage off Ashford Rd, NW2 6BS: details from Survivors 0171 916 5317.

WOMEN & WORDS (North London) c/o Tricycle Theatre, 269 Kilburn High Rd, Kilburn, London NW6 7JR. A women's writing workshop meeting monthly every second Weds 7.30 in the James Baldwin Room (♦not disabled accessible). Contact Judith Grossman or Box Office on 0171 328 1000.

ADULT EDUCATION : BACES, **Brent Adult College**, 1 Morland Gardens, Hillside, NW10 8DY. . Disabled access info for centres 0181 838 2882.

At Brent Adult College: **Univ of the 3rd Age** Creative Writing, to be confirmed (0181 902 0655). **Carlton Centre** Granville Rd NW6 2BX (0181 937 3636) Creative Writing for **Over 50s** Fri 10-45-12.45 £1 a session.

ARTS : Brent Arts & Leisure: Frank Quigg, Strategic Director Cultural Services, Brent House, 349-357 High Rd, Wembley HA9 6BZ (0181 937 5290). **Arts & Education Manager** Graham Barnard, Willesden Green Library Centre, 95 High Rd, NW10 2ST. (0181 937 3426). **Arts Council** Chris Channing, Stables Gallery & Arts Centre, Gladstone Park, Dollis Hill Lane NW2 6HT (0181 452 8655)

LIBRARIES: Willesden Green Library Centre 95 High Road, Willesden Green, NW10. . Access: lifts wheelchair ramps and extra toilet facilities have been built in. It's even open on Sundays. (0181 451 0294 for events).

**BROMLEY :
Outer London South East, 24 on map**

RIPLEY POETRY ASSOCIATION, Ripley Arts Centre, 24 Sundridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent. Meets last Friday of Jan/Feb/Mar/Sep/Oct/Nov 8-10pm.26 Jan **Christina Dunhill**; 23 Feb **Matthew Sweeney**; 29 Mar **Carole Satyamurti**. Contact Alison Bennett 0181 466 5689.

SHORTLANDS POETRY CIRCLE holds fortnightly meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 2-30pm. The circle is probably the oldest meeting in London and was started as long ago as 1911, and has survived two world wars. Different subjects, or a study of a definite poet are arranged for the meetings. Contact Lesley McLetchie, 0181 460 0119.

SURVIVORS workshops & performances for survivors of the mental health system. Events at Anchor House Day Centre, 5 Station Rd, Orpington BR6 0RZ (Orpington station, 358 bus). Details 0171 916 5317.

ADULT EDUCATION : General enqs: **Bromley Adult Education College** (0181 462 9184). Kentwood Centre, Kingsdale Rd, Penge SE20 7PR (0181 659 7976 partial wheelchair . access) Creative Writing (beginners welcome) Thurs 10.00-12.00 tutor Megan McGilchrist; Craft of Writing (Birkbeck Extramural) Sats 27 Jan, 17 Feb, 23 Mar, 27 Apr 9.30-4.00, tutor Charlie Bell. Poverest Centre, Poverest Rd, Orpington (01689 822886; full wheelchair . access) Writing for Pleasure Tue 7.30-9.30pm tutor Ted Walter.

Bromley WEA contact Debbie Bottomley 0181460 9835

ARTS: Arts Development Officer Dermot O'Brien, Central Library, High St, Bromley BR1 1EX (0181 460 9955 x238. **Arts Education Forum** Pamela Smyth, Educational Development Centre, Princes Plain, Bromley BR2 8LD (0181 462 8911). **Bromley Arts Council** Project Officer: Malcolm Allen, The Studio, 28 Beckenham Rd, BR3 4LS. Mrs Jean Dyne produces a Diary of Events: ring 0181 464 5816. For further information write to Ripley Arts Centre, 24 Sundridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent BR1 2PX. . **Disability Arts in Bromley**, Mrs M Gibbs, 14 Rodway Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 3JL. (0181 290 5546)

BOOKSHOPS: Waterstone's, 20-22 Market Square, Bromley.

LIBRARY: Central Library, Bromley High Street, Bromley BR1 1EX(0181



£3.50