



Twelve Rivers

Newsletter of the Suffolk Poetry Society

Registered Charity No. 1162298

Vol.6 Iss.1 Spring 2015



Cameron Hawke Smith, Lord Phillips of Sudbury, Kaaren Whitney, Terry Waite CBE, Jenny Chantler, Derek Phillips, Ian Fosten, Nicola Hughes, Ian Griffiths, Colin Whyles, Tim Gardiner, Beth Soule, Gill Phillips, Matt Carter

Reaching Out

*...a man's reach should exceed his grasp
Or what's a heaven for?*

said Browning's mouthpiece, the painter Andrea del Sarto, but he could have been speaking for all poets too. But whilst most of us as writers would interpret this as the internal striving for the elusive word or image, we will also have a sense that we need to reach out to others, and not just those who share our obsession with poetry.

The last year must have been one of the most successful and outward-looking in the Society's history. Our Chairman writes in this issue of the great progress that has been made in our quest for charitable status, but also of the seeding of poetry in new parts of the county, though the cafes and events.

The centenary of WWI has prompted many to express their thoughts and emotions about that cataclysmic event that touched every family, and they have very often chosen

poetry as their medium. But poetry of course combines well with music and art, as in our President's very successful event last autumn at the Aldeburgh Festival.

Then Desert Island Poets with Terry Waite drew in a capacity audience to the Quaker Meeting House in Bury: the poetry of his choice, mainly humorous, provided for him, in his 'desert island' as a hostage, a link to his home and his own people. The format drew audience, performers and celebrity together in a deeply moving sharing of story and experience.

Until now SPS has perhaps been too much of a rather exclusive 'club' for literary enthusiasts. Becoming a charity has practical benefits (like bringing more cash into our grasp) but it is far more important that it will encourage us to see our role in reaching out to others, to share a little bit of our 'Heaven'.

Editor

From The Chair	2
The Cat House – G. Bence-Jones	2
Interview: James Knox Whittet	3
Shoal Moon – Review	5
A Thaxted Anthology – Review	5
Desert Island Poems	6
2nd Festival of Suffolk Poetry	8
The Vale of Health – Review	10
Decadel – Ronald Blythe	11
The Green Man – Review	12
The Wit of John Gay – Event	12
Stanza News	13
Sheep and Shepherds	14
Writing Poetry – Report	15
Poet Profile: Rob Lock	16
Quiz	16
Selected Poems	17
Upcoming Events	20
Contacts	20

Important Notice To Contributors

The deadline for all items other than poems for the next issue is 31st October 2015. The preferred format is a Word attachment to an email to editor@suffolkpoetrysociety.org.uk but you may send them by post to me at my address: 6 The Crescent, Steeple Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7DX.

It is very important that your name and email/ address are written on the item you are sending.

ARTICLES

I welcome all articles to do with poetry in the county and would especially encourage news from the cafés and other groups.

POEMS

The deadline for poems will be 30th September 2015. This will enable me to circulate them to our referees and receive their recommendations. **If you are sending poems please put your name, address and preferably e-mail address on each page.**

IMAGES

Images, drawings or photographs are welcome. Please send them in as high a resolution possible to webmaster@suffolkpoetrysociety.org.uk.

Cameron Hawke Smith, Editor

2nd Southwold Arts Festival Open Mic evening

Monday 29th June 2015 7.30pm
Southwold Golf Club

*The Southwold Arts Festival
Poet this year is
ROGER McGOUGH*

Calling all performers to showcase their talent. This is your chance to hold the audience for 4 to 6 minutes while you play, sing, or READ YOUR POETRY. If you would like to take part please email openmic@southwoldartsfestival.co.uk. Entry is free.

Upcoming events

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| May 30th 10:30 | The SPS 2nd Festival of Suffolk Poetry at the John Peel Centre in Stowmarket. |
| June 20th 14:00 | The Life and Times and Extraordinary Wit of John Gay – Caroline Gay Way Friends Meeting House, Beccles, NR34 9AB |
| June 26th 19:30 | Ip-Art & SPS at Waterstones, Ipswich: Dean Parkin & Fran Lock |
| September 6th 15:00 | Tea at The Priory: Ray Rumsby on George Crabbe. <i>Strictly members only.</i> |
| October 11th 12:30 | Crabbe lunch & Awards. Wentworth Hotel, Aldeburgh. |

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suffolkpoetrysociety.org.uk

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