

King's Lynn Literature Festivals

Fiction in March, Poetry in September

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PRESS RELEASE

Poets Gather In King's Lynn For The Annual Poetry Festival

The King's Lynn Poetry Festival will take place over the weekend of 27-29th September, 2019. Gathering for the festival are eleven world class poets for a weekend of readings, interviews and discussions.

Headlining this year's festival is Jo Shapcott. Twice winner of the National Poetry Award, her 2011 collection, *Of Mutability* (published by Faber), was *The Guardian's Book of The Year*, and she was tipped as a favourite for this year's handover of the Poet Laureate title. The festival will also host the launch of London poet Matthew Caley's new collection, *Trawlerman's Turquoise* (pub. Carcanet, 2019).

The fragile ecological world and climate change are tackled in Nick Drake's collection, *The Farewell Glacier* (pub. Bloodaxe, 2012). The acclaimed poems were inspired by his visit to the Arctic. He will read from this and his new collection, *Out of Range* (pub. Bloodaxe, 2018).

There is often an international flavour to the festival, this year provided by Hong Kong poet Kit Fan. He will read from his new collection, *As Slow As Possible* (pub. Arc Publications, 2019). From closer to home, the audience will hear from Norfolk-based poets Sue Burge, Helen Ivory and Elisabeth Sennitt Clough.

Last year, one of the most respected poets of his generation, Irish poet Matthew Sweeney, died of motor-neurone disease aged 65. His voice was distinctive and he had visited King's Lynn on several occasions, last in 2014. For the Sunday event, the festival will remember his poetry and hear his words read by his partner and fellow poet, Mary Noonan. Festival organiser, Tony Ellis, said: "The world of poetry has lost one of its greats - a terrific poet and an almighty character. Matthew's contributions to our festival were always memorable, his brilliant readings of his own extraordinary poems will be hugely missed."

Other poets attending, no less respected, are Tim Liardet, John Greening and Adam Feinstein.

Events are around 90 minutes long with either two or three poets per event, or a discussion which features contributions from several poets. Tickets are priced at £8.50 per event. Full details of the weekend can be found on the festival's website: www.lynnlitfests.com

All events take place at the Town Hall on the Saturday Market Place in the heart of historic King's Lynn.

For more information, please contact Robert Elwes at lynnlitfests@gmail.com
There are some press images on line at www.lynnlitfests.com/press.html
Ends

Chairman Tony Ellis