POETRY SCHOOL is a national arts organisation providing inspiring tuition and opportunities for writers, poets, and poetry audiences. We are a registered charity and proud to be one of Arts Council England’s National Portfolio Organisations 2018–2022.

We run a large variety of courses and workshops for poets and writers of all levels; from free introductory classes to our advanced masterclasses, taught in our classrooms in London, across the UK, and online all over the world.

Every Poetry School activity comes with a range of concessions. Prices are listed in the following order: Full Price, Students & Low Income, Under 30, Disabled & Carers (i.e. £118, £94, £82, £59). All activities are open for all unless stated otherwise.

For more information about our courses, and to book a place with us, please visit poetryschool.com. Term starts on 11 January; please ensure to book your places by 17 December.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

If we cancel an activity, you will be refunded in full. If you cancel your booking more than four weeks before the start date, we will refund you. If you cancel your booking less than four weeks before the start date, we will refund you if we can fill your place from the waiting list. There are no refunds on talks, readings, and special events. Travel costs cannot be refunded.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you can’t afford the full price or concessionary cost of a Poetry School activity, we can arrange a payment instalment plan, or you may apply for a bursary covering up to 100% of your costs. The deadline for Spring 2022 bursaries is 6 December. Please email us on: administration@poetryschool.com to find out more.
Trying to convince my dad that Pat Roach plays the German mechanic in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

It’s a long shot. He’s point-blank refusing to believe it. That’s not the same actor who’s in *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet!* My brother rolls his eyes, grabs the remote, presses pause and although the image is a bit shaky, white static darting across the screen, there’s no mistaking who it is: Pat Roach. Shaved head, bare torso, bloodied nose, fists raised in the air, about to get his face shredded by the plane’s propeller. My dad is resolute, unmoved. *Looks nothing like him.*

Even when we show him his name in the frozen credits, he maintains it’s all part of some fiendish Spielberg plot. There’s little mileage, then, in proving what he fails to see. We abandon hope, but years later, more evidence emerges, special edition box sets with commentaries, bonus footage, photographs of the cast all over the internet. My brother, whenever there are repeats on TV, sends two words by text: Pat Roach. My dad laughs, of course, but something else too. There’s still that disbelief, an uneasy relationship with truth. Take this morning, for example, his battle with a gazebo, struggling to identify the pieces lined up on the back lawn. Instructions discarded, he denounces the structure as a scam. *No bloody wonder B&M were selling them off at half price.*

He takes to YouTube where he watches some guy giving advice on how to assemble the sections, B slots into H, C slots into G. It doesn’t work, so he claims it’s just a wind-up, that all outdoor furniture is conspiring against him.

At that moment, seeing him desperate to align the corners, I suggest a cuppa. But then the scene shifts in a way that can’t be verified. The garden is now the Canyon of the Crescent Moon, the ending of *The Last Crusade*, my dad as Indiana Jones, his arm outstretched, fingertips grazing the Holy Grail, and me, as Professor Henry Jones, saying, *let it go. Let it go.*

*Jeanette Burton* is a poet and English teacher from Belper in Derbyshire. She has poems published by The Emma Press, Poetry Wales, and in the Candlestick Press pamphlet *Christmas together: Twelve Poems for Those We Love*. She won first prize in the 2020 Welshpool Open Poetry Competition and first prize in the 2021 McLellan Poetry Competition. Her pamphlet *What is this, a family outing?* was shortlisted in the Poetry Wales Pamphlet Competition 2021. This poem was written on our Summer 2021 course *Poetry & The Family* taught by Jonathan Edwards.
ONLINE COURSES

INTERACTIVE
10 weeks / 5 sessions
£118, £94, £82, £59

Wednesday 12 Jan – 23 Mar
Bardics: A Poetics of Shamanism
Rhys Trimble
Explore Shamanic poetic practices and learn how to bring the Bardic into your writing.

Monday 17 Jan – 28 Mar
A Slice of Butterworth-Toast: Writing Poems for Children
Rachel Piercey
Write new poems for children, inspired by Charles Causley.

Wednesday 19 Jan – 30 Mar
Location, Location, Location: Countries of the Mind
Catherine Smith
Develop your own ‘poetry of place’ as we explore the poetic possibilities of real and imaginary locations.

INTERNATIONAL
10 weeks / 5 sessions
£118, £94, £82, £59

14 Jan – 25 Mar
Expanded Screenwriting as Poem Form
Emma Bolland
Experiment with the possibilities of screenwriting and scripts as a form for your poetry.

17 Jan – 28 Mar
Writing About Writing: What Am I Doing Here?
Lily Blacksell
Reveal your hand, show your face, and rise from your poems’ surfaces to ask what you’re doing, and why?

17 Jan – 28 Mar
Reading & Writing Robert Frost
Jodie Hollander
Closely examine the work of Robert Frost to take inspiration from one of poetry’s true masters.

19 Jan – 30 Mar
‘What will I do now, with my hands?’ – Writing Queer Sex
Remi Graves
Learn to write directly, imaginatively, tenderly, and fearlessly about the different shapes, tastes, and textures of queer sex.

20 Jan – 31 Mar
Forms of Family
Gboyega Odubanjo & Cai Draper
Consider what it means to write about family and how to approach this sometimes-thorny topic.

21 Jan – 1 Apr
Persian Poetry Through the Ages: From Rumi & Hafez to Forough Farrokhzad & Kaveh Akbar
Natasha Hakimi Zapata
Take inspiration from a vital poetic tradition spanning more than eight centuries.

TRANSREADING
10 weeks / 5 sessions
£118, £94, £82, £59

11 Jan – 22 Mar
Beyond Words: Transreading Experimental Latin American Poetries
Leo Boix
Explore 20th Century Latinx poetry as inspiration for new poems and translations of your own.

12 Jan – 23 Mar
Exercises in Potential Literature: Transreading Oulipo
Sue Burge
Explore Oulipean constraints to shake up your writing practice.

17 Jan – 28 Mar
‘Let my poems wash away your treachery’: Transreading Georgian Poetry
Rebecca Ruth Gould
Dive into the unexplored world of Georgian modernism and learn how these writers forged poetry from political oppression.

19 Jan – 30 Mar
Transreading Ukrainian Poetry: ‘a crimson bush amidst silence’
Steve Komarnyckyj
Explore one of the world’s greatest neglected literatures with expert Steve Komarnyckyj.
1 Mar – 5 Apr
Writing the Holocaust: Memory, Ethics, & the Limits of Imagination Studio+
Anna Vepinska
5 weeks / 4 assignments
£108, £86, £75, £54
Consider how we might ethically approach the Holocaust in our writing and what it means to write this topic today.

FEEDBACK
Monday 17 Jan – 4 Apr
Fortnightly Feedback
Shivanee Ramlochan
11 weeks / 5 sessions
£85, £68, £59, £42
Knock your loose poems into shape with some concentrated feedback from poet and essayist, Shivanee Ramlochan.

STUDIO
17 Jan – 14 Feb
Thingly Power: (In)Animate Studio
Caleb Parkin
4 weeks / 3 assignments
£85, £68, £59, £42
Discover your sensuous side and write poems exploring the radiant materiality of curious objects.

3 TERM COURSES
10 weekly sessions
Zoom, unless stated otherwise
£195, £156, £136, £97
6:45–8:45pm (unless stated otherwise)

MONDAYS:
17 Jan – 21 Mar (Advanced)
Advanced Poetry Workshop
Anthony Anaxagorou
2–4pm
Develop your writing through discussion and feedback in this advanced workshop with Anthony Anaxagorou.

17 Jan – 21 Mar (Intermediate)
The Poet’s Toolkit
Shazea Quraishi
Hone your craft, explore poetry’s inner workings, and look at techniques to help your poems achieve lift-off.

17 Jan – 21 Mar (Advanced)
What Next?
Wayne Holloway-Smith
Challenge yourself, elevate your writing, and take the next steps in your poetry career.

TUESDAYS:
11 Jan – 15 Mar (Advanced)
Advanced Poetry Workshop
Astrid Alben (In-person)
An exciting new advanced workshop group with the innovative Astrid Alben.
**18 Jan – 22 Mar**  (Intermediate)
**What Now?**
Wayne Holloway-Smith
*Bring your poetry to the next level and explore contemporary poetry’s cutting-edge.*

**WEDNESDAYS:**
12 Jan – 23 Mar  (Intermediate)
**Wednesday Workshop with Tim Dooley**
Tim Dooley
2–4pm *(In-person)*
*Our long-running weekly workshop with Tim Dooley, for poets looking to develop their individual voice and technique.*

19 Jan – 23 Mar  (Advanced)
**Advanced Poetry Workshop**
Mark Waldron
*An advanced weekly workshop group with the inimitable Mark Waldron.*

**THURSDAYS:**
20 Jan – 24 Mar  (Beginner)
**Live Wires: Starting to Write**
Becky Varley-Winter
*Spark your creativity and take your first steps into the world of poetry!*

**FRIDAYS:**
14 Jan – 25 Mar  (Intermediate)
**Intermediate Poetry Workshop**
Tim Dooley
2–4pm
*Our weekly workshop for intermediate poets looking to develop their work.*

21 Jan – 25 Mar  (Advanced)
**Advanced Poetry Workshop**
Richard Price
11am–1pm
*Join this group for rigorous discussion of your writing with acclaimed poet Richard Price.*

**SATURDAYS:**
29 Jan; 26 Feb; 26 Mar
**Saturday Sessions**
Ros Barber
3 sessions / 10:30am–4:30pm
£190, £152, £133, £95
*Three all-day Saturday workshops with Ros Barber.*

**SHORT COURSES**
5 fortnightly sessions
7–9pm, Zoom
£118, £94, £82, £59

**11 Jan – 8 Mar**
**The Poetry of Pain**
Sarah Fletcher
*Create your personal pain-language and find healing through poetry.*

**18 Jan – 15 Mar**
**Poetry That Sings**
Rebecca Levi
*Let music and its principles spark new ideas and help your writing sing, dance, and find its rhythm.*

**20 Jan – 17 Mar**
**(Im)Perfectly Formed: Writing about the Body**
Lewis Buxton
*Learn how different poetic forms can shape writing about bodies.*

**23 Jan – 20 Mar**
**Poetry Vs. Prose**
Shazea Quraishi
*Interrogate your personal poetics and generate new writing as we explore the differences (and similarities) between poetry and prose.*

**WORKSHOPS**
*Zoom, unless stated otherwise*

29 Jan & 19 Feb
**A Sci-Fi Enterprise of Social Poetics**
Nisha Ramayya
10:30am–1pm
£84, £67, £59, £42
*Push beyond your earthly limits as we explore the social poetics of Sci-Fi.*

12 Feb & 5 Mar
**Swerve: Surprise, Errancy, & Unexpected Turns**
Genevieve Stevens
10:30am–1pm
£84, £67, £59, £42
*Explore errancy and try out some dangerous driving in your poetry.*
Poetry of the Menopause:
Pause & Refresh
Katrina Naomi
10.30am – 4.30pm
£84, £67, £59, £42
Join us for a workshop on poetry of the menopause, where we’ll read and write poems exploring how our bodies change – the losses and the gains.

5 & 12 Mar
Apocalypse & Myth
Eleanor Penny
10:30am–1pm
£84, £67, £59, £42
With a new apocalypse around every corner, ask how can we make sense of the present in our writing?

12 Mar
The Uncertainty Principle
Jack Underwood
10.30am – 4.30pm (In-person)
£84, £67, £59, £42
Learn to feel certain in poetic uncertainty and trust your readers to actively participate in your writing.

Mentoring*
£800 * This includes 6 x one hour face-to-face sessions or 1,000 word email commentaries on 250 lines of poetry at a time, personalised reading and writing tasks, and guidance on next steps towards publication.

Email administration@poetryschool.com to arrange 1-2-1 teaching.

WRITING POETRY MA
Delivered as a part time course over two years, the MA in Writing Poetry is an accredited Masters degree at the Poetry School in partnership with Newcastle University.

Students can choose to study in London or Newcastle upon Tyne, and come together for a one-week Summer School that alternates between the two cities each year.

Tutors include:

London – Glyn Maxwell and Tamar Yoseloff, with guest tutors from the Poetry School's established teaching community, one of the largest freelance faculties of poets in the world.

Newcastle – Tara Bergin, Bill Herbert, Sean O'Brien, and Jacob Polley, plus guests.

To register your interest, please email Sarala Estruch at sarala@poetryschool.com for study in London, or Melanie Birch at Melanie.Birch@newcastle.ac.uk for study in Newcastle.

Applications are now open for 2022.

SURGERIES
1-Hour Feedback Sessions (Zoom)
£100 per session
Various times

20 Feb
Leah Umansky
In-depth 1-2-1 discussion on your poetry with Leah Umansky.

31 Mar
Mina Gorji
In-depth 1-2-1 discussion on your poetry with Mina Gorji.

1-2-1 TEACHING

Tutorials in person / Zoom (1 hour)
£150 – based on 200 lines of poetry.

Tutorials by email
(1,000 word commentary)
£150 – based on 200 lines of poetry.

Manuscript assessment
£400 – based on 1,200 lines of poetry; feedback can be face-to-face or via email.
‘Poetry School has made an immeasurable difference both to my life as a poet and to my sense of being connected to a larger writerly community.’

– Summer 2021 Survey Response