

# Muse Letter

DIY Poets (March 2026)

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## What's been happening?

February saw Dandelions open mic, featuring our very own DIY poet John Humphries (this was definitely not a book launch). DIY Poets also had a presence at Derby Book Festival. Hongwei's script read-through went ahead. The DIY zine reached number 70, please send (short) submissions on the theme of "Green" to Frank for inclusion in the next zine by 30<sup>th</sup> March. Diane, Sue, Joy and Clare organised an open mic, to raise money for Refugee Roots. DIY poet Stuart Whomsley started his own Youtube Channel – view his poetic creations here: <https://www.youtube.com/@stuartwhomsley>

**DIY Poets Youtube channel** aims to host a new poem from DIY poet contributors each month (February unfortunately was missed due to Hazel being otherwise busy with a wedding... but was be caught up by adding two new videos in March): Recent contributions were from Stuart Whomsley (January): "The lady at 23", followed by Frank McMahon: "Riding Without Stabilisers" and "Second Language" (March) and Joy Rice (also March) "Miss Polly" a modern take on the old nursery rhyme. Guy Jones will be our Youtube star for April.

Check them all out and subscribe here: [DIY Poets - YouTube](#)

## November Quarterly Review:

*Review/Summary by Frank McMahon and Diane Horsley*

*Join us next time 14<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 at Middle Street Resource Centre, Beeston*

*(DIY on tour again.. as the search for a more permanent home continues)*

## ANDREA:

The Comfort of Paint about her son "My father's smile shrunk into edges and lines."

"two tone moment captured in time"

Son aged 14 Walking Towards Me

Remnants of dough under my fingernails

Watch him shoulder my bag, a suitcase of heaviness

## ANDREW MARTIN:

Ram's Refuse, Chewing over choices. Dormant paternal instinct

Grazing, verdant, horny

Matlock. Infinite fluid energy, Percussive repetitive beat

O'Level Geography 1984 Features of a Derbyshire Valley

Unauthorised Absences. Fresh flowers and tears

Charred twisted metal, injured hospitals, sacrificed schools

Hope Not Hate

## GUY JONES:

1 Tide ebbed, uncalled for fingerprints of time

2 Subconscious poem

29 Fortuna Grove a house Guy used to live in. 6-year-old waiting for a pot of tea and tea cosy. The tin of dubbin that will be mine next year.

"the box, which would tell everything we know about things." News of JFK

Stairs wearing high heels. Dad having to bath four boys all at once

## PETE CLAVIN:

Boasting lips of burnished garnet  
He's a diet fascist. Full fat communist  
Can she still tame wild white horses?  
Can he heal with his touch the bone that dislocates?  
Can he stop the clock on your bedside table?

One Trick Pony  
Heaney had a fountain pen. Rotten just a seditious sneer  
Cantona just hot under the collar  
McGowan just spat curses through splintered teeth  
Georgie Best a gorgeous body feint

## RON GRATTEN:

"Do what's needed to perambulate"  
Writing about male lust. How many times can a man take a peek?  
Cinema that used to be on Hyson Green a temporary playground for arse out kids

## JENNIFER THORPE

Fatmandu  
Micro aggression. "I don't know what it is to be you"  
School Reunion. Rhona saw her twelve years later  
A sincere smile of concern I could not recall  
Poetry What message would you write on a bottle. A vessel of what could be.

## LAURA GREVEL:

Villanelle about those shot in Minneapolis by ICE  
What colour was the sky the day Renee died? Have you seen the full power of the sky?  
What will it take for the good to survive?

Laura also writes about parking lot heat and how Dr Acupuncture begins a holiday

Our featured poet: LEANNE MODEN

Co Ordinator of Paper Cranes group. Poet for over fifteen years

Leanne performed poems about the evils of xenophobia and pie

They were here first. Some slices are bigger than others

Leanne is part of a Sonnet Writing collective, every February writing 28 sonnets in twenty-eight days. A poem about the film Spirited Away how artificial the concept of countries are "a border is a dull persistent ache."

Leanne's new collection looks at the aging of women in Western society

Based on a Slavic creation myth. Stains the sky with triumphs out of reach

A violent world demands a violent birth.

Only twelve men have walked on the moon, and one was allergic to moon dust. Against the weight of your own hubris. No woman has set foot on the Moon, and ingest the moon dust

Leanne has a residency with anti-domestic violence charity in Mansfield

DANDELION: Bravery is an unruly halo of dandelion

My Favourite Tree

ORCHARDS: There's an orchard in my chest. Acre of ache

Asked to write poems for weddings in 2018

Read six different poems: "sometimes I feel we first met in space"

"I'll be your university if you'll be my universe

BAD KISSER: You licked me from forehead to chin

MARGI:

Ode to a Boiled Egg

Legend of Anti Crab

DIANE HORSLEY:

Wrote a vinegar poem based on a a prompt

Repair Shop. Not here to give you instructions

Brown Bear, Brown Bear. White bear privilege of accent class, tits or a dick.

**NATALIE:**

Fuck you Mail online

Home is sleeping with the light off, unafraid

### **Interview with a DIY Poet: Guy Jones**

**Whereabouts in Nottingham are you from and have you lived there all your life?** I moved to Nottingham in 1984 after finishing my degree. A mate from back home was in his final year and there was a place in his house...it was better than going back home.

**When did you start writing poetry?** Like most people, I started at school. Always liked writing stuff, though dyslexia kind of got in the way and led to plenty of red marks on my work.

**Who are your poetic influences? Who do you admire?** To give myself a sort of poetic legitimacy, I'd have to say Dylan Thomas, Louis MacNeice, Sylvia Plath, William Shakespeare ... However, the truth probably lies more in the direction of ... the Beatles, Pink Floyd and Paul Simon. I have always been the one who listens to the words of a song and I love lyrics that can stand on their own.

**What made you start writing poetry?** Unrequited love, requited love and a broken heart... in that order.

**Do you have a short poem to share that you have written and that you are especially proud of?** Not sure that it is a poem, but I rather like it. It was written as a quote for an ex-girlfriends dissertation on Health and Safety on public playgrounds. She used it, making it my first published piece of poetry, though she managed to misquote it.

#### **On Health and Safety**

Through a series of epic expeditions

the Polynesians were able to colonise  
the remotest islands of the Pacific Ocean

The same spirit of discovery  
has put man on the Moon  
painted the Sistine Chapel

and led to the development of key-hole surgery

The desire to take risks  
to push the boundaries  
is fundamental to the human condition

and learning to do it begins with children at play

**Please will you nominate the next poet for this?** Andrew Martin

(So far we have had: Elaine Boot, Don Holmes, Joy Rice, Stuart Wormsley, Clare Stewart, Frank Mac, John Humphreys, Laura Grevel, Hazel Warren, Guy Jones.)

### **Upcoming Events:**

Check out the DIY Poets Webpage for events: [DIY Poets](#)

And contact Guy to get an event listed on the page.

**New look Museletter** – Museletter is evolving. What would you like to see more or less of? And if you have any contributions for upcoming editions.