

OXFORD DI-VERSE

16TH & 17TH
NOVEMBER
2024

POETRY FESTIVAL

SPOKEN WORD//
OPEN MIC//CREATIVE
WORKSHOPS

Event Programme



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Two days of poetry and spoken word workshops and performances, platforming diverse voices to kick off Transgender Awareness week.

This grassroots, cooperative festival is organized by Oxford Poetry Library, Butcher's Dog Poetry Magazine, Reconnecting Rainbows Press, St. Columba's United Reformed Church, and Exeter College.

VENUES

COHEN QUAD

Exeter College's state of the art venue. A bright and open space, with large workspaces, an auditorium and a café.

WALTON STREET, JERICHO, OX1 2HG

ST. COLUMBA'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

A welcoming and inclusive church in the heart of Oxford.

ALFRED ST, OFF HIGH ST, OX1 4EH

SATURDAY

Time	Event	Venue
10:00AM- 10.30AM	Registration and Welcoming	COHEN QUAD
10:30AM- 12.30PM	Parallel Creative Writing Workshops a) Mindful Poetry with Yasmin b) Zine Poetry with Jay	COHEN QUAD
1.00PM- 1.25PM	Nedim Türfent in Conversation	COHEN QUAD
2.00PM- 4.00PM	Parallel Creative Writing Workshops a) Monologues with Suzanne c) Writing Archives with Kym	COHEN QUAD
7.00PM- 9.00PM	Open Mic Night Compère: Phoebe Nicholson	ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH

SUNDAY

Time	Event	Venue
10:00AM- 11:00AM	Brunch	COHEN QUAD
POETRY READINGS		
11:00AM- 12:00PM	From Saturday's Workshops	COHEN QUAD
12:15PM- 1:15PM	From Oxford Poetry Library	COHEN QUAD
BREAK		
2:30PM- 3:30PM	From Oxford Poetry Library	COHEN QUAD
3:45PM- 4:45PM	From LGBTQ+ Voices and Allies	COHEN QUAD
BREAK		
SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE		
7:00PM- 9:30PM	Showcase of Nationally Acclaimed Poets	ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH

POETS

JAY HULME



Jay Hulme is an award winning transgender poet, performer, speaker and educator from Leicester. Alongside his writing he teaches poetry, speaks on LGBT rights and inclusion, and performs sensitivity reads on manuscripts.

Workshop - Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm

KYM DEYN



Kym is a writer and editor. Their pamphlets include *Nine Arches' Primers Vol. 6.*, *Dionysia* published by Verve Poetry Press, and *Unfurl*, a collaborative fiction experiment. They have been widely published in anthologies and journals for their poetry and prose, including *Butcher's Dog*, *14 Poems* and *Strange Horizons*. They run The Braag CIC, a poetry and speculative fiction press.

Workshop - Saturday 2.00-4.00pm

RAWZ



Rawz is a Multidisciplinary Artist from Oxford. His practice centres around words and music, and is rooted in social justice and the exploration and understanding of our interconnected worlds.

Performance - Sunday 7.00pm

SUZANNE ELVIDGE



Suzanne is a bisexual writer, crafting articles about science and medicine by day and monologues and short stories by night.

Her writing crosses over fiction and science as well as queer identities, with a focus on unheard women's voices. She has completed an MA in Writing for Performance at Derby University.

Performance - Sunday 7.00pm
Workshop Saturday 2.00pm-4.00pm

NEDIM TÜRFENT

Nedim is a Kurdish journalist and poet. Following his arrest in Turkey in 2016, he became a key concern for PEN International and was appointed as an Honorary Member of English PEN and PEN Melbourne. Nedim spent over six years in prison in violation of his right to freedom of expression, despite international campaigns for his release. His first collection of poetry Kuş Aynası (Bird Mirror) was written from prison and published in 2021. In 2022, his book of poems and writings Über Mauern was published in Germany. Nedim was released from prison in 2022. He continues to live abroad with his partner and has resumed his journalism.

Performances: Saturday 1.00pm and 7.30pm (open mic), Sunday 7.00pm



ENGLISH
PEN

ENGLISH PEN

English PEN is one of the world's oldest human rights organisations and the founding centre of PEN International, a worldwide writers' association with 130 centres in more than 90 countries. The charity works to promote literature and to defend freedom of expression in the UK and internationally.

www.englishpen.org

WORKSHOPS

CREATIVE MONOLOGUES

WITH SUZANNE ELVIDGE

SATURDAY 2.00PM-4.00PM

A monologue is an intimate piece – it's a conversation between you and your audience. Come and join me to learn the art of writing a monologue, from getting into your character's head and creating the beginning that will hook your audience's attention, through telling their story, to bringing it to a close (or a cliffhanger) that will leave your listeners thinking. We'll finish with editing, proofing and performing. There will be time to write, read and listen, too.

ZINE POETRY

WITH JAY HULME

SATURDAY 10.30AM-12.30PM

Zine poetry combines the physical and the literary, as you work with limited vocabularies to transform pre-existing printed materials into creative pieces that truly reflect yourself.

WORKSHOPS

WRITING ARCHIVES, WRITING MEMORY

WITH KYM DEYN

SATURDAY 2.00PM-4.00PM

This workshop will look at archives, both personal and historic, and how we can develop work from these valuable stores of inspiration. Mixing museum artifacts, memory and poems from writers like Josephine Balmer, Fahad Al-Amoudi and queer and trans writers such as Rachael Mann we will explore the connections between our history and those that have gone before us through gentle poetry prompts provided by Kym.

MINDFUL POETRY & PERSONAL STORIES

WITH YASMIN JENKINS

SATURDAY 10.30AM-12.30PM

We will be looking at how to turn personal stories and experience into poems. We will use mindfulness as a tool to connect to our inner voices.

Yasmin Jenkins is a disabled poet, actor and playwright from Oxford. She loves using her work to spread awareness of invisible disabilities and chronic pain. She is also a qualified Yoga teacher and loves writing her own mindfulness meditations. Her poem "Bubbles" was featured on the BBC Upload radio programme earlier this year.

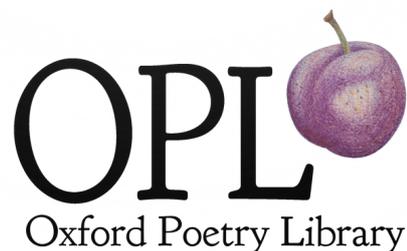
PARTNERS

OXFORD POETRY LIBRARY

COMMUNITY WORKS, 21 PARK END ST., OXFORD

OPL strives to foster a growing community of readers, provide a platform for local writers to share their work, and to encourage the exploration and appreciation of poetry throughout Oxford. Founder **Phoebe Nicholson** is a co-organiser of the festival.

Some of their favourite poets will be performing on Sunday, curated by **Andy Melhuish**.



www.oxfordpoetrylibrary.com
instagram: [@oxfordpoetrylibrary](https://www.instagram.com/oxfordpoetrylibrary)

BUTCHER'S DOG PRESS

NEWCASTLE

Butcher's Dog is a bi-annual poetry magazine founded and published in North East England.

Independent and egalitarian, they print outstanding poems by diverse writers with distinctive voices from across the UK and ROI.

Managing editor **Jo Clement** will be leading workshops and performing at the festival.



www.butchersdogmagazine.co.uk
Instagram: [@butchersdogpublishing](https://www.instagram.com/butchersdogpublishing)

PARTNERS

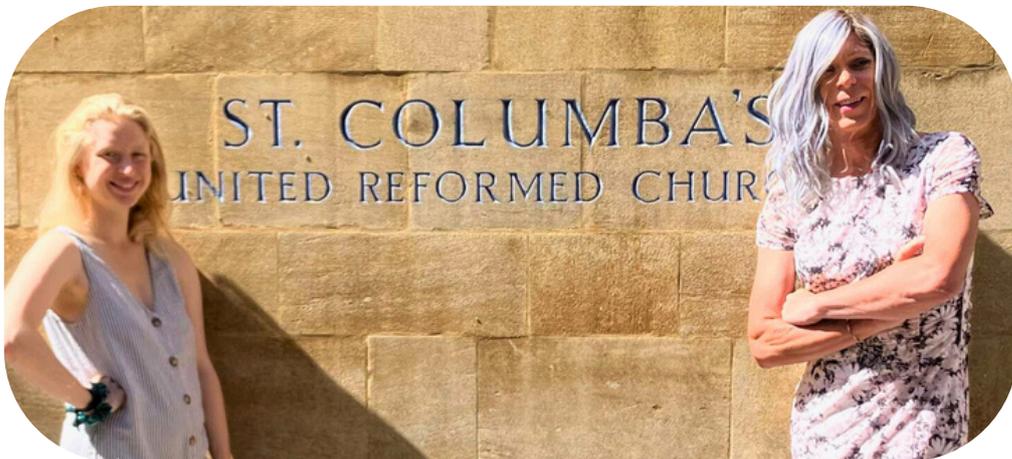
ST. COLUMBA'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ALFRED ST., OXFORD

It is through the ministry of St Columba's Church that this poetry festival came into being. They employ **Chrissie Chevasutt** and **Holly Taylor-Zuntz** to love and serve the transgender community, on both a local and national level.

As well as the festival, they organise the National Transgender Theology Conference and publish regular blogs.

www.saintcolumbas.org/church-life/transgender-outreach
Instagram: @transgender.theology



PARTNERS

RECONNECTING RAINBOWS PRESS

LONDON

Reconnecting Rainbows Press is delighted to support the Oxford Di-Verse Poetry Festival.

As a queer- and trans-led indie publisher from East London, we're all about unleashing the power of words to bring people together, smash stereotypes, fight media negativity, and transform mental wellbeing within the LGBTQIA+ community.



Our current list includes the 'TransVerse' anthology series, four solo poetry collections, queer history, young adult fiction, and the script for an Edinburgh Festival smash hit play - but we're excited to branch out into new genres too.

If you have a manuscript or book idea, or would like to collaborate on future events celebrating queer and trans creativity, please contact us via our website at www.reconnectingrainbows.co.uk.

Instagram: @ReconnectPress

Fediverse: @ReconnectPress@writing.exchange

EXETER COLLEGE

Exeter College Chapel is a fully affirming and safe space. Chaplain Andrew Allen, was quick to offer sponsorship of this poetry festival, as an expression of Exeter College's commitment as a progressive, liberal college, keen to serve both students and the city.



EXETER
COLLEGE
OXFORD

They have donated the use of Cohen Quad and provided catering for us. As organisers we are grateful for this abundant generosity.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



OXFORD PRIDE



Programme produced by Holly Taylor-Zuntz