

Allnutt, Gillian  
Apollinaire  
Ashbery; O'Hara; Koch, Schuyler  
Astley, Neil  
Batty, Suzanne  
Brown; Schechter; Collins  
Carson, Anne  
Carver, Raymond  
Challenger, Melanie  
Clark, Polly  
Cohen, Leonard  
Collins, Billy  
Crozier, Lorna  
Dickinson, Adam  
Duhig, Ian  
Elfyn, Menna; Rowland, John  
Faludy, Georges  
Finlay, Alec  
Finlay, Alec  
Frost, Robert  
Graham, W S New  
Greig, Andrew  
Kenji, Miyazawa  
Kinsella, John  
Leonard, Tom  
Mapanje, Jack

McKay, Don  
Mead; Tranter  
Morgan, Edwin  
Ni Dhomhnaill, Nuala  
Olds, Sharon  
Padgett, Ron  
Paschen, Raccah, Collins  
Popa, Vasko  
Rilke, Rainer Maria  
Ritsos, Yannis  
Robertson, Robin  
Rothenberg, Jerome

Sawyer-Lucanno, Christopher  
Snyder, Gary

Tardieu, Jean  
Whittet, James Knox

How the Bicycle Shone: New and Selected Poems  
Calligrammes: Poems of Peace and War (1913 - 1916)  
The New York Poets: An Anthology  
Being Alive: The Sequel to Staying Alive  
The Barking Thing  
Conversation Pieces: Poems That Speak to Other Poems  
Autobiography of Red: A Novel in Verse  
Fires: Essays, Poems, Stories  
Galatea  
Take Me With You  
Book of Longing  
Sailing Alone Around the Room: New & Selected Poems  
Whetstone  
Kingdom, Phylum  
Nominies  
The Bloodaxe Book of Modern Welsh Poetry  
Notes from the Rainforest  
Passport: an anthology of passport rubber stamps  
Flowers of the North Sea  
The Poetry of Robert Frost  
Collected Poems  
This Life, This Life: Selected Poems 1970 - 2006  
Miyazawa Kenji: Selections  
Poems 1980 - 1994  
Access To The Silence  
The Last of the Sweet Bananas: New and Selected Poems  
Strike/Slip  
The Bloodaxe book of Modern Australian Poetry  
Collected Translations  
The Water Horse  
Selected Poems  
The Teacher's and Writer's Handbook of Poetic Forms  
Poetry Speaks to Children (inc audio)  
Golden Apple  
Letters To A Young Poet  
Monochords  
Swithering  
Technicians of the Sacred: A Range of Poetries from Africa  
E E Cummings, A Biography  
The Gary Snyder Reader: Prose, Poetry and Translations, 1952  
The River Underground: Selected Poems & Prose  
100 Island Poems of Great Britain and Ireland

# Poet Partner



2007-2008-2009

Leaflet One

Jen Hadfield

Shetland Library's Poet Partner, chose a special collection of poetry for us in 2007. On the back is listed the collection she chose, and inside she writes about some of her choices.



Shetland arts



Shetland Library

## E.E.Cummings, A Biography

As e.e.cummings says of the voice of Josephine Baker, his poetry is "simultaneously uncouth and exquisite...luminous."

As e.e.cummings said of his psychoanalyst, "he symbolises for me the merciful (the miraculous) non-necessity for any convention, any rule or rote or repetition..."

The biography of e.e.cummings makes an incredible manifesto for what (and maybe what not) to strive for in poetry, love, life and art.

I never read a book I wanted to quote from more....

## Atoms of Delight

The haiku/short poem commemorates everyday glories, things which seem trivial or boring, because they're so familiar. The practice of writing haiku proves that poetry needs not (and maybe mustn't be) grave elevated laborious grand exclusive worthy HARD WORK.

Here's a wee writing exercise....

Taking p81 Alan Jackson, as an example, write a poem of no more than three lines about something you see every day. Now, a three-line poem's tiny, isn't it? The thing you write about may be fleeting ... brakelights reflected on the wet road at Gremista ... think of the poem as taking no longer than a flash of lightning.

## Sharon Olds Selected Poems

I am grateful that there is a poet so painfully honest as Sharon Olds – about her father's death, about the honest mixture of love and fear of him, about sex and birth and motherhood, the scary messy gorgeous mixture of everything.

I teach that all poetry should be treated as fiction, even if it seems to be autobiographical. In fact, even if everyone knows the things that happened in the poem are things that happened to you. It is a sort of responsibility that the reader has to the writer.

And still this seems quite a shocking book to me. It is very hard to read these poems as fictional. If you had written *New Mother*, would you think twice about reading it in the Shetland Library? And yet it is a wonderful poem. Sharon Olds is an astounding poet.

How can you reconcile these things? The public and the private?

## W.S.Graham New Collected Poems

For some reason I always end up borrowing the poems of W.S.Graham from libraries when I'm travelling ... the last time was in Perth, when I had forty minutes to kill before a reading. That time I read Johann Joachim Quantz's *Five Lessons*. I Will Lend You Malcolm Mooney is my home from home wherever I go...strange, considering it's a poem set in the most hostile of landscapes.

I have never sat down with W.S.Graham without beginning to write a poem within five minutes. I think it's because he sounds like someone speaking and singing at the same time. I'm amazed he's legal.

## Adam Dickinson, Kingdom, Phylum

Adam Dickinson is a poet I met at a reading in Edmonton, Canada in what...February 2004? He gave me a copy of his first book, *Cartography and Walking*, which I wasn't expecting to like at all, with that big clunky title and a washed-out kind of cover with dead trees on it.

There was this poem in there which gripped me as a poem hadn't in years. I memorised a poem for the first time in years, because I was waiting for a bus in New Westminster, and wanted to read it, and not having it to hand, hauled it out of my subconscious line by line. How did it start? "We've discussed this half-asleep; our tongues like piled cottonwood/in the dry, open field." You have to say it.

Anyway. Kingdom, Phylum is his new book. See what you think.

## Tom Leonard, Access To The Silence

Poetry is more to do with speaking, than writing. Poets and readers talk about a poet's Voice, because poetry is a voice that happens to be crossing a page in a book, like a housefly dirling against a windowpane.

I studied with Tom Leonard following a course in English Language and from the two I began to believe what I was taught, that there is no such thing as Proper Speech or Correct Grammar. There is no dialect or accent that is better than any other. There is just people meeting other people in conversation. Or as Tom Leonard has it – "all livin language is sacred"

Poet Partner is a three year project involving the Scottish Poetry Library, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Shetland Arts and the Shetland Library.

Jen Hadfield, accomplished poet and author of *Almanacs* and *Nigh No Place* came to Shetland for a writing residency in 2005 and stayed.

The library has invested in this special collection but also has a huge amount of other poetry in stock. Please browse our catalogue and ask for any books you don't see on the shelf.

[www.shetland-library.gov.uk](http://www.shetland-library.gov.uk)