

Poetry in the Branches
librarians' training from Poets House New York & the Scottish Poetry Library
Central Library, Paisley, 1 & 2 September, 2008

SPL staff: Robyn Marsack, Director, Scottish Poetry Library
Julie Johnstone, Librarian, Scottish Poetry Library
Lilias Fraser, Reader Development Officer, Scottish Poetry Library

Poets in Residence: Elspeth Murray
Tim Turnbull

Monday 1 September, 6.00pm – 8.00pm

6:00 Registration, drinks and finger buffet supper

7:00 **Novel Approach (open to public)**

‘What a fantastic idea, marrying novels with poetry’

Ian Rankin

Join poets Elspeth Murray and Richard Medrington for this event designed to help fiction readers find poetry they'll enjoy. Popular novels, from *Shadow of the Wind* and *Bridget Jones's Diary* to Iain M Banks sci-fi, are paired up with poetry books. With poems and extracts brilliantly performed by Elspeth and Richard, and some of their own favourites added in, this session is always a delight. ‘*Our bookgroup are Elspeth & Richard ‘groupies’ ... This was uniquely inclusive and well performed as ever.*’ See www.splreadingroom.org.uk and choose ‘Ideas Box’ for details of Novel Approach.

‘This is a wonderful idea ... People who love to read fiction would love to read poetry, sometimes the problem is figuring out where to start.’

John Burnside

Tuesday 2 September, 9.30am – 4.30pm

9:30 *Coffee, late registrations*

10:00 Welcome & discussion

- ‘What makes a poem good or not?’

Enjoy tackling this question head-on, with SPL Director Robyn Marsack, poets in residence Tim Turnbull and Elspeth Murray, and plenty of common sense.



- 10:30 Develop your library's poetry collection
- core lists of recommended Scottish and European poetry titles
 - poetry publishers large and small
 - keeping up with new poetry titles
 - using SPL resources to help you stay in touch

11.30 *break*

- 11.45 Bringing poetry to life – with the help of the Poets in Residence
- The Events Basics Checklist
 - formats and audiences
 - great event ideas that won't cost the earth

1:00 *lunch*

- 2.15 Leading a poetry discussion
- discussion formats
 - Shared Inquiry
 - prepare poems to run your own discussion

3.45 *break*

- 4:00 Ready to go
- plan your next steps
 - quick ideas to try as soon as you get back to work

4.30 Finish

Poetry in the Branches: Sourcebook

The course handbook is stuffed with tip-sheets and book lists, as well as copies of all the materials for download in our Poetry Resource Boxes. The Sourcebook is written by the experienced trainers at Poets House New York, with additions by the Scottish Poetry Library.

Please note the training session venue is up two flights of stairs, no lifts. Please contact Liliias if you think this will make it difficult for you to attend.

Contact Liliias Fraser, Reader Development Officer at the Scottish Poetry Library, with any questions about the training schedule or booking, on lfraser@spl.org.uk or 0131 557 2876.

Training session supported by Renfrewshire Council.
Project supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the Scottish Arts Council.

