

**Matthew Black**  
**21 Belgrave Square**  
**Sheffield S2 4UN**  
D.O.B. 26/10/56

[matt.black@pop3.poptel.org.uk](mailto:matt.black@pop3.poptel.org.uk) [www.matt-black.co.uk](http://www.matt-black.co.uk)

## HIGHER EDUCATION

1988 BA Hons., English Literature, University of Sheffield  
First Class Honours, with Prize

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books and CDs

2000	Paternoster (CD: with 3 other writers)	Interart E.V.
2001	Plot 161 (novella)	Spout Publications
2002	The Lighthouses of Trinity House (chapter)	Thomas Reed
2003	Voltaire Today: CD and booklet (with 3 other writers)	Interart E.V.
2006	Joy of the Forest: CD (with others)	Wordhoard
2007	Goblin In The Fridge	Upside Down Books
2008	Cooling Towers' Farewell (CD: with The Only Michael)	Upside Down Productions
2010	Swimmer	Upside Down Books
2011	The Nonsense Olympics	Upside Down Books
2013	Footsteps and Fuddles	Derbyshire County Council
2014	The Owl and the Pussy-cat and the Turtles of Fun	Two Rivers Press

## WORK IN ANTHOLOGIES AND MAGAZINES

(for full details, see Publications CV)

Poems in numerous anthologies, published by Fontana, Oxford University Press, Hodder Wayland, Scholastic, Macmillan, Smith Doorstop and others.

Poems published in the following magazines:

Arc, Pomes, Men For Change, Agenda, Red Deer, Sex In the 90's, Aereings, Lit Up, Rustic Rub, MirrorImage, Envoi, Psychopoetica, Spokes, Smith's Knoll, Fatchance, Opening Line, Krax, Route, Leeds Time Out, The Northern Garden, Obsessed with Pipework, The Text, Obsessed with Pipework, The Interpreter's House, Dreamcatcher, Nowthen, Fostering Matters, le nouveau mondevert, The North, The Rialto, Magma

## COMMISSIONS, AWARDS AND PUBLIC ART

1984	<b>Avon Poetry Competition:</b> 1st Prize
1988	<b>Yorkshire Arts:</b> writing and performance for Paolozzi's <i>Lost Magic Kingdoms</i> exhibition
1989	<b>Lynton plc:</b> poem cast in 6 bronze tablets for floor of Tunsgate square shopping centre, Guildford
1990	<b>Oppenheim-John Downes Memorial Award</b>
1993	<b>Sheffield Arts Dept:</b> <i>Footsteps and Whispers:</i> sound and word tape for Graves Art Gallery
1994	<b>Cheltenham Literature Festival:</b> <i>Hubble Bubble</i> - poem commissioned for opening ceremony - collaboration with Ralph Steadman to distill whisky from literature
1998	<b>Arts Council Writers Award</b> (Yorkshire and Humberside Arts) for <i>Granny Power and Cocoa</i> (sequence of poems)
1999	<b>Groundwork Trust:</b> <i>The Bolton Tapes</i> – local history play

- 2000-2001 **Groundwork Trust:** *Kimberworth Tales* – lead artist in collaboration with sculptor Marcella Livingstone creating texts for Roundwalk and Sculpture Trail
- 2001 **Colman Getty PR Consultancy:** 2 Poems
- 2003 **Christina Sergeevna Award** for Outstanding Writing:  
Austin International Poetry Festival, Texas, USA
- 2003 **Sheffield City Council:** Valentine's poems for City Centre banners
- 2004 **Buxton Festival Fringe:** Best Spoken Word Event
- 2006 **Arts Council England:** Funding award to complete book of poems for younger readers
- 2008 **Bank Street Arts:** *In Their Own Words* poem
- 2008 **Ajagap:** *The Hidden Woman* poem
- 2008 **DARTS, Doncaster:** *The World of Normal:* text for dance piece: with Faye Roberts: South Yorkshire tour
- 2009 **High Green School:** *Hedgehog Nation* performance poem
- 2009 **National Year of Reading:** *A Grim Warning:* poster poem, all Sheffield schools
- 2010 **Sheffield City Council Public Arts/ Yorkshire Forward:**  
*Bustle and Parsnips:* Markets Commission -  
15 poems carved on 15 benches, Sheffield City Centre
- 2011 **Beth's Poetry Trail:** Poster Poem on Belper Station
- 2011 **Poetry Book Society:** *Goblin In The Fridge* selected as Children's Poetry Bookshelf Summer Choice
- 2011-13' See Derbyshire Poet Laureate
- 2013 **Wirksworth Festival:** 8 Responses (online texts)
- 2013 **Derbyshire County Council:** poems from hard times (Food Banks etc.)
- 2013 **Buxton Poetry Competition:** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize (Where Candle-nights Flicker)
- 2014 **Ormiston Ilkeston Academy:** A Hundred Lines for a Hundred Years (school centenary poem)
- 2014-15 **Derwent Pulse:** River Talk (with Derwent Fly Fishing Club) + Fishing Tweets
- 2014 **Changing Landscapes:** work in 2 exhibitions: Lally Gallery, Ilkeston and Revive Gallery, Ilkeston
- 2014 **Poetry, Places and Soundscapes** Exhibition, Cube Gallery, Leicester:  
Cooling Towers poem
- 2015 **Derbyshire County Council:** Lifelines: work on tapestry hanging as permanent exhibition in Chesterfield Library (made by Derbyshire Embroidery Guild)

#### 2011-2013 **Derbyshire Poet Laureate**

**Work including:** adult writing groups, schools, libraries, festivals, village groups, Children's Homes, community groups, young writers groups, readers groups

#### **LAUREATE COMMISSIONS**

*From This Stone* for new Ashbourne Library: etched on glass for entrance hall.

Commissioned by Derbyshire County Council

*Mrs. Arkwright* and *Where Candles Flicker* for World Heritage Site project.

Commissioned by Sinfonia Viva and Arts Council England

*Milestones* 11 poems carved onto Olympic Torch Relay Milestones around the County

Commissioned by Derbyshire County Council and the Legacy Trust

*White Peak, Dark Peak* for 20th anniversary edition of Reflections Magazine, 2012

*Somewhere in this Building* for refurbishment of Derbyshire Record Office

Commissioned by National Lottery and Arts Council England

*Swizzels, Love-Poem in Seventeen Languages* and *Nell* for Lifelines 2012, celebrating difference and diversity. Commissioned by Derbyshire County Council

*The Eco Centre Villanelle Recycling Programme* for Derbyshire Eco Centre and Derbyshire Literature Festival, 2012. Commissioned by Derbyshire County Council

*John Scargill's Nightcap*: poetry/ street theatre/ musical for 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Scargill. Commissioned by West Hallam Village Hall Trustees

*From Aardvark to Zoology* for National Libraries Day, 2012. Commissioned by Derbyshire County Council. Printed as poster for display in Derbyshire Libraries.

*D.J. Dr Johnson's Ashbourne Dictionary Rap* for opening of Ashbourne Library, Commissioned by Derbyshire County Council

*Altogether Creswell* for the 40th anniversary of Creswell Library. Commissioned by Derbyshire County Council

*Erewash Song of Names* and *Erewash Festival of Light* for Erewash Festival of Light, Commissioned by Erewash Borough Council.

*The day I fell for Belper Joe*: 10 poems to celebrate 'Enlightenment! Derbyshire setting the pace in the eighteenth century', commissioned by Buxton Museum & Art Gallery, Derby Museums and Arts Gallery and Belper North Mill.

*Chesterfield taxi-drivers* and *I forgot my teeth*: for Chesterfield Community Arts Festival, Commissioned by Derbyshire County Council

*Chatsworth Road is Paris, Derbyshire* for Chatsworth Road Festival, Commissioned by Chesterfield Borough Council

*From small rivers* for The Ecclesbourne Restoration Partnership Improvement Plan. Commissioned by Derbyshire County Council

*Love-Poem in Seventeen Languages; Questions of Difference*: and others  
Commissioned by Derbyshire County Council: Lifelines Diversity Work

## COMMUNITY WRITING/ EDUCATION

1981-84	WEA Writing/drama/arts projects: in psychiatric hospitals, halfway houses and community centres
1989-2001	Literature Tutor, Mature Access Programme
1995-1997	Development of Certificate and Diploma in Creative Writing, University of Sheffield
1996-2002	Course Director, Creative Writing, University of Sheffield Tutor for 3 modules (24 weeks each) per year with adult education writing groups
1999-2000	3 GPs Surgeries: writing workshops with patients: 6 months
2002-2003	Creative Writing Tutor, University of Leeds
1997-2013	Founder and Projects Director: SIGNPOSTS South Yorkshire Writing Project (ACE RFO/ NPO) Writers Resource Centres, Newsletter, Commissions, Workshops, Writing and Health, Monthly Live Events (Red Deer, Voice Room, Bukowski's), Poetry Slams, Literature Development Consultancy Work, Young Writers Projects
1989-2015	Regular Workshops - Festivals, Schools etc.
1997-2015	Inset training sessions: teachers/librarians/literature workers
2014	Schools Library Service, Derby: 5 artists: profile-raising work
2014-2015	Me, My Past, My Future: family learning project

## WRITING RESIDENCIES

1996	Cheltenham Festival schools: 1 week
1998	Ledbury Festival schools: 1 week
1999	Great Torrington: Poet on the bus: 2 weeks
2000	Huddersfield Primary Schools: creating 4 Poetry Jukeboxes: 12 days
2002	Marlcliffe School: Poetry Jukebox: 5 days
2002	Southey Green: Greeceenders: 8 days
2003	Poet-in-Residence: Off the Shelf Festival (Sheffield)
2004	Filey Regeneration Arts Project: community groups (1 week)
2004	Isle of Man Tour: Schools and Readings (2 weeks)
2004-2006	Roughwood School (2 years)

2006-2007 Wybourn School: The Wy Factor (2 years)  
 2007-2008 Birley Nursery: The Writing Factory (2 terms)  
 2008-2009 Rotherham Schools: Working Heroes Project  
 2010 Derbyshire Poetry Festival: Twitter-Writer-in-Residence  
 2010 Rotherham Schools: 8 Heath Robinson Poetry Jukeboxes  
 2014-2015 First Art (Arts Council People and Places) Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire poems  
 2014-2015 Conference Poet at: Derbyshire Arts Conference; In Your Own Backyard Conference; First Art Launches

## SCHOOLS

1987 Gulliver's Travels: T.I.E. project  
 1994 Yikes, Yaroo and Splat: children's show in 5 schools  
 1995 Feast of Beasts: children's show in 5 schools/ festivals  
 1996-2010 Organised and ran Poetry Slams, Workshops, Poetry Jukeboxes as part of Sheffield Children's Festival  
 2004-2008 Creative Partnerships work: Sheffield, Hull, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham  
 1996-2014 Performances and workshops in approx.350 schools: one-off's/ residencies/ often with festivals: mostly primary schools (inc. Poetry Jukebox work)  
 2013-2015 Secondary school Writer-In-Residence with First Story

**Schools work has included** anything from assemblies to 3-year residencies, with most things in between. Work has focussed on developing confidence, and joy in writing, curriculum skills, personal development, as well as numerous themes and issues: environment, self-esteem, local history, local identity, road safety etc. Most projects are bespoke and developed through discussion with the host organisation.

## Books created through education work

Rain, I Can't Stop Spinning, Rough is here, soft is there, The Wy Factor, Working Heroes, King Cabbage, Close Up, Down Your Street, Where In The World, Sorrow Is The King, Post Stress Cake Disorder

## PERFORMANCES

1985-2015 Regular performances and readings in all kinds of venue – arts centres, cabarets, libraries, galleries, pubs, hospitals, circus tent, cemetery etc..  
 Regular Festival Work: Cheltenham Festival, Ledbury Festival, Sheffield Festival, Birmingham Festival, St.Ives Festival, Kirklees Festival etc.  
 2007.11 An Evening With Matt Black: show with musicians  
 2013-15 Matt Black and the Brothers from Beeley Moor: performances with musicians Mike Smith and Julian Butt  
 2014 Edinburgh Fringe: Shipping Forecast Spoken Word (with Stan Skinny)

## INTERNATIONAL WORK

1998 Wexford Arts Centre, Ireland: 1 week  
 Workshops and Readings  
 2000 Germany and Poland: 2 weeks tour (British Council): *Paternoster*  
 Performances and Workshops in schools and colleges  
 2003 Texas, USA: 2 weeks tour  
 Featured Poet, Austin International Poetry Festival  
 2004 Germany: 2 weeks tour (Arts Council Award): *Voltaire Today*  
 Performances and Workshops in schools and colleges  
 2004 Tabor Festival, Czech Republic  
 2011 France: Musee de Toulouse Lautrec, Albi

## PREVIOUS JOBS

Shoe-shine stand, Postman, Sculptor's assistant, Builder, Office Go-fer, Potato Sorter, Print Recycler, Gardener