

## THE TUTORS



**Peter Sansom's** sixth collection *Careful What You Wish For* (Carcanet) is published this year and his classic handbook, *Writing Poems* (Bloodaxe) is never out of print. He is a director of The Poetry Business and editor of *The North* magazine and Smith/Doorstop Books. He has taught at Huddersfield and Leeds universities and has held several high profile residencies including Marks & Spencer and the Prudential.

[www.poetrybusiness.co.uk/peter-sansom](http://www.poetrybusiness.co.uk/peter-sansom)

*Aldeburgh Eight is a unique venture. It is really something to attend the best and best-loved poetry festival in the country and then to take that experience into such an intense and liberating writing residential. The way the Festival informs the writing experience is something akin to magic, and working with such talented new writers is transformative – for everyone involved.*



**Jackie Wills'** fifth collection *Woman's Head as Jug* (Arc) was published in 2013. Her first, *Powder Tower* (Arc 1995) was shortlisted for the TS Eliot prize and was a PBS Recommendation. She was recent guest co-editor for *The North* and has reviewed for *Mslexia*, *Poetry Wales* and *Warwick Review*. A Royal Literary Fund Fellow 2009–12, she's been an Arvon course tutor and was the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival poet-in-residence in 2004.

[www.jackiewillspetry.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.jackiewillspetry.blogspot.co.uk)

*The whole scheme is such a brilliant idea. The festival offers an unrivalled perspective on contemporary poetry, so it's the best possible start for a week focusing on the craft and what poems can do. I can't wait to work with the Aldeburgh Eight – I know it will be exhilarating.*

## THE APPLICATION

To apply in person or to nominate a poet, the following needs to be provided:

- Full contact details (including email)
- A selection of poems (no more than **six**, published or unpublished) to be supplied **as a single Word document with each poem plus author's name on a separate page**
- Publication history
- A brief biography including DOB (one side A4 maximum)
- A short statement of suitability for the Seminar, likely contribution to the group and anticipated benefits (no more than 150 words)

Please send this information, preferably by email, to:

[info@thepoetrytrust.org](mailto:info@thepoetrytrust.org)

or by post to: **ALDEBURGH EIGHT**, The Poetry Trust,  
The Cut, 9 New Cut, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8BY

All applications must be received by **Monday 13 April 2015**

Successful applicants will be notified by **Friday 15 May 2015**

*As a poet I've been encouraged to look really closely at who I am, why I write like I do, how I write and what I'm doing! I feel the impact of the Aldeburgh Eight is so deep that I'll still be processing it for a long time to come. I want to do it every year please!*

**Joanna Guthrie, participant 2014**

Garrick  
Charitable Trust



BRUISYARDHALL  
SINCE 1354

The Poetry Trust  
The Cut, 9 New Cut  
Halesworth  
Suffolk IP19 8BY

Telephone: 01986 835950  
Fax: 01986 874524  
Email: [info@thepoetrytrust.org](mailto:info@thepoetrytrust.org)  
Website: [www.thepoetrytrust.org](http://www.thepoetrytrust.org)



Registered Charity Number: 1102893  
Company Limited  
by Guarantee Number: 5047225



Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

# ALDEBURGH EIGHT

THE ADVANCED SEMINAR

6–13 NOVEMBER 2015



[www.thepoetrytrust.org](http://www.thepoetrytrust.org)

## THE DETAILS

Applications are invited for **ALDEBURGH EIGHT** which will take place in Suffolk from **1pm on Friday 6th** until **midday on Friday 13th November 2014**.

**ALDEBURGH EIGHT** is the natural progression of The Poetry Trust's Advanced Seminar which ran successfully each March from 2007–2011. The principle aim remains – to devise a unique opportunity, professional and creative, for eight carefully selected poets early in their publishing careers.

In 2013 the Seminar was relaunched as **ALDEBURGH EIGHT**. Taking place in the autumn, participants now spend an immersive three days at the international Aldeburgh Poetry Festival, immediately followed by an intensive five-day rural retreat. A once-in-a-lifetime eight days of accelerated poetry development.

Participants stay together throughout – during the Festival at Elizabeth Court in Aldeburgh (6–8 November) and then 12 miles inland at Bruisyard Hall, near Saxmundham (9–13 November).

The Poetry Trust actively seeks eight poets with a strong publishing track record (magazines, anthologies, individual pamphlet and possibly a first collection), real promise and clear evidence of commitment.

The Poetry Trust consistently identifies and nurtures new talent – notably via the Fenton Aldeburgh First Collection Prize and **ALDEBURGH EIGHT**, both of which are at the heart of our investment in the outstanding UK poets of the future.

---

*Attaching the course to the Festival was inspired and underlines the unique opportunity that Aldeburgh Eight provides. Certainly it was what I needed, a jolting reappraisal of the default poem that I'm always in danger of writing.*

**Edward Doegar, participant 2014**

*One is in a heightened state of receptivity after the Festival, and this openness is the ideal state of mind for the writing that follows. I felt able to turn the 'poetry instinct' button up full!*

**Mary Noonan, participant 2014**

## PART ONE – THE FESTIVAL

**ALDEBURGH EIGHT** will begin with all participants attending Aldeburgh Poetry Festival (6–8 November) – the UK's ultimate poetry weekend featuring readings, conversations and talks by poets from all over the world.

In addition to having a Festival pass for all the readings, discussions and lectures in the main venue, **ALDEBURGH EIGHT** participants will also attend a preliminary workshop with both tutors. Peter Sansom will subsequently guide the group through the weekend, hosting morning meetings – to touch base about poems, events and ideas – to maximise the benefits of the Festival experience.

## PART TWO – THE RETREAT

On Monday 9 November participants will be transported to Bruisyard Hall where each day's full schedule will focus on generating new work and will also include:

- Group workshopping of participants' poems
- One-to-one tutorials
- Discussions of craft
- Close readings of exemplary poems
- Practical help with giving readings

## THE RETREAT VENUE

**Bruisyard Hall** dates from the 14th century and provides an atmospheric and spacious retreat in rural Suffolk. The house has recently undergone a stunning refurbishment and its ten bedrooms and nine bathrooms (six ensuite) combine grandeur and style with comfort and homeliness.

The Poetry Trust is very grateful to Bruisyard Hall for providing the perfect creative retreat in Suffolk for **ALDEBURGH EIGHT**.

## THE COST

**ALDEBURGH EIGHT** is highly subsidised, with the generous support of the Garrick Trust. A Festival Pass, accommodation, food and tuition fees for this intensive week-long course will cost just £495 per participant (approximately one third of the 'real' cost). However, we are determined to open this opportunity to all poets of exceptional talent regardless of financial circumstances. Therefore bursaries and help with long-distance UK travel will be made available to any successful participant able to provide proof of need.

## THE COMMITMENT

**ALDEBURGH EIGHT** Advanced Seminar lasts for eight intensive days and demands a significant investment on both sides. Advance preparation will be required and great commitment throughout. This has often been the beginning of a lasting relationship with The Poetry Trust – we have regularly featured alumni at our events including the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival – and competition for the eight places will be strong. Participants **must** attend both parts of **ALDEBURGH EIGHT** – the Festival and the Retreat – and fully commit to the eight days.

### ALDEBURGH EIGHT ALUMNI

Since 2007, 56 poets have 'graduated' from the Advanced Poetry Seminar. Most have gone on to secure significant recognition, with publication of a pamphlet or first collection as well as prize nominations and awards.

**2007** Sally Baker, Judy Brown, Susan Burns, Philip Hancock, Allison McVety, Philip Pollecoff, Kathryn Simmonds, Saradha Soobrayen

**2008** Gill Andrews, Cathy Bolton, Graham Clifford, Katrina Naomi, Diana Pooley, Ed Reiss, Philip Rush, Mary Woodward

**2009** Cathy Benson, Jonathan Davidson, David Gilbert, Daniel Hardisty, Helen Mort, Catherine Ormell, Meryl Pugh, River Wolton

**2010** Angela Cleland, Peter Daniels, Rebecca Farmer, Holly Hopkins, Nicholas MacKinnon, Sophie Nicholls, Rebecca Perry, Tom Warner

**2011** Liz Berry, Jamie Coward, Ramona Herdman, Hannah Lowe, Alex McCrae, Fiona Moore, Jocelyn Page, Luke Yates

**2013** Sophie Clarke, Ryan Devin, Christy Ducker, Isabel Galleymore, Cheryl Moskowitz, Richard Scott, Chrissy Williams, James Womack

**2014** Edward Doegar, Joanna Guthrie, Matthew Howard, Miriam Nash, Mary Noonan, Richard Osmond, Paul Stephenson, Rebecca Watts