

FORWORDS, Sun 9 Oct 2005

There are a lot of events over the next month, mainly in connection with the Off the Shelf Festival. We've included a smattering of them below, but don't pretend to offer a comprehensive list of Festival events. If you want to know more, check out the programme on the Off the Shelf website:

<http://www.offtheshelf.org.uk/programme.asp>

Information on listings and subscriptions is available on our website: <http://access.lowtech.org/forwords/>

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Tuesday 11 October

-Spoken Word Antics

Upstairs at the Red Deer on Pitt St., Sheffield, 8pm for 8.30pm start. Turn off West St. onto Mappin St., and Pitt St. is the second on the left. Donation: 50p-£1.

This month Antics presents a mini-theme on the Russian Futurist poet Maiakovskii. Cliff Forshaw will be reading his own translation, and Bob Russell performing Maiakovskii in Russian and in Edwin Morgan's Glaswegian dialect translations. In addition, the usual...stories, poetry, urban fairytales, beautiful lies, the ugly truth. A friendly, informal atmosphere. No stage, no amplification. If you'd like to perform just let us know when you arrive. For more info email <[antics@lowtech.org](mailto:antics@lowtech.org)>, phone 0114 258 7270, or visit the website: <http://access.lowtech.org/antics>.

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Thursday 13 October

-Open Space ([open-space.org.uk](http://open-space.org.uk))

Coffee Revolution in Sheffield University Students Union. 7.30-10pm

Open mic. A place to step out and try something new: music, poetry, drama.... Performance slots offered on a first come first served basis, so if you want to take a stand turn up early and have a word with Phil, or whoever's setting up. For more information, contact Phill on 0779 971 4605 or email <[openspace@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:openspace@sheffield.ac.uk)>.

-Merle Collins

Crucible Studio Theatre, 55 Norfolk Street, S1. £7/£5 (concs). Box office 0114 249 6000

Born in Aruba and raised in Grenada Merle Collins is one of the Caribbean's most celebrated poets and also Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Maryland. She is the author of 2 novels – Angel and The Colour of Forgetting, a book of short stories and 3 poetry collections. Her latest is Lady in a Boat – poetry that expresses resonant disquiet of a Caribbean adrift whilst also celebrating love and the splendours of Caribbean nature. Off the Shelf

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Friday 14 October

-Off the Cuff

FOB, 18-20 Church Street, S1. £3.50/£2.50 (concs).

An evening of comedy, music, and performance poetry with Matt Black, Ray Globe, and John Turner, plus your chance to shine in an open mic slot. Off the Shelf.

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Tuesday 18 October

-Burngreave Open Mic

The Furnival, 199 Verdon Street, Burngreave (buses 47/48 to Rock St). 6.30-8.30pm. Free.

Singers, rappers, storytellers, poets, comedians, musicians all welcome. There will be a PA system with a sound engineer and you can record a mini-disc of your performance on the night. For further information contact Vincent Turner on 0790 690 6616 or email <[gotprod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gotprod@hotmail.co.uk)>.

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Wednesday 19 October

-River Wolton – 'The Underground Orchestra'  
Burngreave Library, Spital Hill. 10am–12pm. Free.

A chance to meet local poet River Wolton and find out what inspires her work. River will read some poems from The Underground Orchestra, a collection in progress, focussing on themes of home and family. Copies of River's poems will be available from the library from the end of September for you to read in advance. All welcome. For more details, call Anne at Burngreave Community Learning Campaign on 0114 2794960, or Janet at Burngreave Library on 0114 2039002. A Burngreave Feel-Good Reading Group event, and part of Off the Shelf.

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Thursday 20 October

-Open Space (open-space.org.uk)  
Coffee Revolution in Sheffield University Students Union. 7.30-10pm

Open mic. A place to step out and try something new: music, poetry, drama... Performance slots offered on a first come first served basis, so if you want to take a stand turn up early and have a word with Phil, or whoever's setting up. For more information, contact Phill on 0779 971 4605 or email [<openspace@sheffield.ac.uk>](mailto:openspace@sheffield.ac.uk).

-Our River, Our City with Chris Jones  
Site Gallery, Brown Street, S1. £3.50/£2.50 (concs). Box office 0114 273 4400

Chris Jones has spent the last 9 months writing a sequence of poems about the River Don. He will present a vision of the city, its communities and landscapes, with the Don as the constant voice in Sheffield's past, present and future. The Only Michael composer and DJ, has produced a soundscape to run alongside this sequence.

A number of poems from the work will be projected onto the river itself as a 'light' installation at The Gardeners Rest pub, Neepsend, each evening from Friday 21 October to Sunday 23 October. Admission free. Off the Shelf.

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Saturday 22 October

-Demolition: sound/poetry collage ([www.zeroquality.net/demolition.html](http://www.zeroquality.net/demolition.html))  
Sheffield Cathedral, Church Street. 7pm, £3.

Demolition is a performance of words and music that seeks to construct some kind of composite perspective on our changing urban environment, refracted through the voices of its participants. Over the summer around twenty poets have submitted poems connected with 'demolition and the city', or taken part in a series of writing workshops. Their poems will be interwoven with each other and with music from Ella Luk, a Berlin-Sheffield music project, in a live collage of sound and poetry. The performance will be dynamic, with poets and musicians speaking and playing from different positions around the building. Demolition follows on from Verbiage, which took place in the Winter Gardens during October 2004. Both projects explore new ways of performing poetry, combining it with music, and bringing it to a wider audience. Part of Off the Shelf Festival of Reading and Writing and supported by the Arts Council.

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Wednesday 26 October

-Burngreave Feel-Good Reading Group discuss 'The Color Purple' by Alice Walker  
Burngreave Library, Spital Hill. 10am – 12pm. Free.

A chance to talk about this novel and other books you have been reading over a cup of coffee. Copies of this classic novel about a young black woman in the American South are available to borrow for free from Burngreave Library. All welcome. Part of Off the Shelf.

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Thursday 27 October

-Open Space ([open-space.org.uk](http://open-space.org.uk))

Coffee Revolution in Sheffield University Students Union. 7.30-10pm

Open mic. A place to step out and try something new: music, poetry, drama.... Performance slots offered on a first come first served basis, so if you want to take a stand turn up early and have a word with Phil, or whoever's setting up. For more information, contact Phill on 0779 971 4605 or email [<openspace@sheffield.ac.uk>](mailto:openspace@sheffield.ac.uk).

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Saturday 29 October

-Take Five...Women Poets

Showroom Cinema, Paternoster Row, S1. £5/£4 (concs). Box office 0114 275 7727

Four Women poets with a Kick are Clare Shaw, River Wolton, Nell Farrell and Anne Caldwell who have wowed audiences with the range and quality of their poems as well as the exuberance of their performance. The wonderful voices of this kicking quartet of women poets makes a great poetry party Saturday night.

They are joined by visiting American poet Jane Hirshfield, a visionary writer whose poems celebrate a hard-won affirmation of our human fate. A well loved poet in the States (and on our shores for a brief and rare visit) her words have become indispensable to many American readers in navigating their own lives. off the Shelf.

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Monday 31 October

-Sherlock Holmes at New Roots

New Roots, 86 Spital Hill. 7-9pm. Free.

Did you know that Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, once lived at 86 Spital Hill, which is now New Roots. Come to New Roots from 7pm – 9pm for a spooky night with the Sherlock Holmes society. Call Burngreave Library on 0114 2039002 to book a free place. (This event is advertised in the Off the Shelf Brochure as being in Burngreave Library – the event is actually in New Roots, which is on the right side of the road at the top of Spital Hill.)

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Tuesday 8 November

-Spoken Word Antics with Keith Armstrong

Upstairs at the Red Deer on Pitt St., Sheffield, 8pm for 8.30pm start. Turn off West St. onto Mappin St., and Pitt St. is the second on the left. £1.

Stories, poetry, urban fairytales, beautiful lies, the ugly truth. A friendly, informal atmosphere. No stage, no amplification. If you'd like to perform just let us know when you arrive. For more info email [<antics@lowtech.org>](mailto:antics@lowtech.org), phone 0114 258 7270, or visit the website: <http://access.lowtech.org/antics>.

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