

Museletter 7

By Helen Sadler

September 2025

Quarterly Showcase: Thursday 21st August 2025

The August DIY Quarterly was hosted by Dianne and Joy and comprised its usual array of talent.

The evening started with DIY poets who made excellent use of their 5 minute slots. They started with Elanin Boot, who offered us reasons to be cheerful, Clare Stewart, Frank MacMahon, Joy Rice and John Humphrys. Then the Open Mic started with Julie reading from her sequence about her mother, memory and make believe, Sonia who carried on Elaine's theme and offered reasons to be cheerful, Barry and Jake.

Our headline poet, Birgit Friedrich, held us entranced as she took us on a journey through Germany and Sicily and then she wrung my heart, and maybe those of others, as she performed poems about her partner and the effect a sojourn in a care home has on the one left.

Additional poems were shared by Guy, Sue, Stewart, Dianne and Jennifer.

We hope to hear further wonders at the next Quarterly Event in November 2025.

August Zine

Issue 69 was available and distributed.

Interview with Laura Grevel

Whereabouts in Nottingham are you from and have you lived there all your life?

I am from Texas, and lived in Leicestershire for 14 years, during which I made Nottingham my literary hub, for fiction and poetry.

When did you start writing poetry?

I've written poetry since I was 17 on and off but started intensively writing and reading poetry in 2018.

Who are your poetic influences? Who do you admire?

There are so many poets I admire. Walt Whitman, Edgar Allen Poe, Maya Angelou, Wallace Stevens, Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, T S Eliot, Khalil Gibran, Robert Burns, Shakespeare, William Blake, W H Auden, and so many more. Even living poets! Including my friends!

What made you start writing poetry?

I have felt a calling to write—various types of writing—since my teens.

Then, in 2018, I accidentally attended at poetry event, was asked to read a piece, and met Hazel Warren, who invited me to a DIY Poets meeting. I became hooked!

Do you have a short poem to share that you have written and that you are especially proud of?

Children

You will gather children, those you seeded and not. From the fields and cities, from the very air. You will gather them because it is predestined: to meet them and share. Love is a commodity in great demand. Attention is a precursor to giving a hand. Be not timid, be bold, be generous. Walk the road knowing the paths will connect. From the east and west, the north and south, they'll arrive with questions. With avenues for advice, with grief and joy. They'll arrive from all continents; they'll arrive with contests and baskets. They'll arrive with a boat for the future. There may not be a place for you on board, but there will be space for your spirit, your offering to those who sail.

Please will you nominate the next poet for this?

Hazel Warren

Thank you, Laura!