

# Poetry Writing Retreat

with poet

Katie Griffiths



**Friday 15th – Monday 18th November  
2019**



**AUTUMN** teaches us to drop the heavy burdens and draw breath. With that theme in mind, we're offering you a weekend of poetry writing, designed to be both inspiring and restorative. Indulge in the adventure of expressing on paper those thoughts and ideas that are bubbling up inside and would love to be released.

**PRICES** range between **£350** and **£415** and include:

- **Three nights accommodation in cozy mill workers cottages**
- **Five workshops guided by poet Katie Griffiths**
- **Two home-cooked evening meals enjoyed as a group at Hewenden Mill**
- **Transport to local pub, where we'll dine and relax on Saturday night (meal and drinks to be paid direct to pub)**
- **All session materials to inspire and generate ideas for your own poems**

Guided group workshops will take place in our bright and spacious studio between 10am and 12.45pm, and again between 5.30pm and 7pm. Afternoons are free—you can take a writing prompt with you and gain inspiration while walking around the 12-acre estate through ancient bluebell woods, visiting the nearby villages of Haworth or Saltaire, relaxing in your cottage or using the studio to write. The options are many, and the choice is yours!





## YOUR TUTOR– KATIE GRIFFITHS

Katie fell in love with Hewenden Mill when she visited earlier this year and says: “It’s a perfect spot for writing poems in response to the season and dramatic surroundings. I know how joyful and healing it can be to play with words — to jot them down and see what mischief and magic they can get up to when granted air and space.”

As a fully qualified teacher, she’s taught English, English as a Foreign Language, and Creative Writing. She’s been a freelance journalist, and a volunteers organiser



helping refugees of the war in the former Yugoslavia. This year she won second prize in the National Poetry

Competition. Published in *Primers Volume One* (Nine Arches Press), she also has pamphlet, called *My Shrink is Pregnant*, due out in November from Live Canon.

Currently working on a full collection of her poetry, Katie regularly gives workshops in the crafting of poems, and is passionate about bringing a love of writing to others. “The English language and its huge treasure of words is a playground available to us all.”

## THE SESSIONS

We’ll meet in the light-filled studio, which occupies the entire first floor of Hewenden Mill — a warm and welcoming space whatever the weather.

Sessions will use a range of approaches to get the creative juices flowing. We’ll have on hand a variety of materials, including lively word-games and thought-provoking prompts. We’ll look at a mix of poems so that we can delve into their secrets — how they make us feel, and how they can help us write. And at this time of year when the days draw in, we’ll explore what we can intuitively draw out of ourselves, using autumnal textures, colours and light as inspiration.

The retreat welcomes poets of all levels — especially those who may feel creatively stuck, or those who feel they’d love to write but have hesitated so far. The focus will be on “dropping the heavy burdens”, loosening restrictions, and allowing our own personal insights, mischief and magic to enliven our poems.





## ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is set within wonderfully warm and cosy mill workers cottages with between 2 and 3 bedrooms per cottage. Some bedrooms have en-suite facilities, while others share a bathroom with one other room. All cottages have a shared lounge and a well equipped kitchen-diner (fridge-freezer, dishwasher, cooker microwave etc). They also benefit from excellent Wifi and include towels, bed linen, tea towels and a complimentary welcome pack. There is secure private parking outside each property.

All cottages are smoke and pet free.

## COURSE PRICE

The course price shown is per person and based on one person per room (options A—E). All rooms are subject to availability.

**A: £415** Master bedroom with king size bed and en-suite shower room

**B: £405** Twin bedroom with private bathroom

**C: £390** Double bedroom with king size bed and shared bathroom

**D: £380** Twin bedroom with shared bathroom

**E: £365** Single bedroom with shared bathroom

**F: £350** Shared Twin bedroom with shared bathroom





## THE LOCATION

Nestled deep in the bottom of a tranquil and secluded valley, Hewenden Mill Cottages offer wonderfully comfortable self-catering accommodation in an 18th-century woollen mill complex. Surrounded by 12 acres of ancient woodlands on the edge of a lively trout-filled beck, the cottages are ideally placed for those seeking a restful retreat.



For those with a passion for sketching, painting or photography, the estate provides many opportunities to engage with the landscape and its varied wildlife. Guests with a passion for walking will find the 30 ft waterfall at Goitstock and the 18 arch Hewenden Viaduct exciting destinations.



Hewenden is also a fabulous base for exploring the local area. Haworth, home to the Brontë sisters, is just 3 miles away and nearby Saltaire, a UNESCO world heritage site and home to the David Hockney gallery at Salts Mill, is just a 15 minute drive. Ilkley, Halifax, Hebden Bridge and Skipton are just over half an hour's drive while Leeds, Harrogate and The Dales are within an hour.



## Creative courses & Relaxing retreats

### @ Hewenden Mill Holiday Cottages

Hewenden Mill, Cullingworth, Bingley

West Yorkshire

BD13 5BP

[www.hewendenmillcottages.co.uk](http://www.hewendenmillcottages.co.uk)

[hewendenmill@btconnect.com](mailto:hewendenmill@btconnect.com)



## SCHEDULE

### Friday

3pm: welcome. We look forward to showing you to your accommodation.

5.30—7pm: get-together in the studio, and writing games with Katie

7.15pm: delicious two-course dinner in the studio. You may bring your own wine.

### Saturday

10am—12.45 pm: morning session

5.30 pm—7 pm: late afternoon session

7.15 pm : depart for dinner at local pub. (Your meal and drinks paid direct to pub.)

### Sunday

10am—12.45 pm: morning session

5.30—7 pm: late afternoon session

7.15 pm: delicious two-course dinner in the studio. You may bring your own wine.

### Monday

9.30 am: farewell meeting in the studio

Saturday and Sunday afternoons have free time between 12.45pm—5.30pm to relax, write or explore. Enjoy lunch either in your cottage by taking advantage of the self-catering facilities, or at one of the many local pubs. Takeaways and local shops are also within a mile of the venue.

## TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

Please email Susan Richardson at [hewendenmill@btconnect.com](mailto:hewendenmill@btconnect.com) or phone her on 07760 768276 to discuss your room preferences and any dietary requirements. After confirming the price, a non-refundable\* deposit of £100 will be required to secure your place. This can be paid by cheque (made payable to Katie Griffiths) or by Paypal—details will be provided.

The remainder of the balance will be due four weeks before the start of the retreat. A confirmation email will be sent on receipt of the deposit and a reminder will be sent when the balance is due.

Arrival details and directions will be sent in the week before the retreat. You are welcome to get in touch with Katie if you have any questions or areas of interest that you'd like to discuss.

[kmngriffiths@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kmngriffiths@yahoo.co.uk)

*\* The deposit and, later, the balance are non-refundable, unless the course is unable to run for any reason. In this situation we will advise you straight away and refund immediately any monies paid. Holiday cancellation insurance—often inexpensive and easy to arrange— may be worth considering.*