

Tuesday 12 April 2022

Press Release for immediate circulation.

## Introducing the Buckinghamshire Libraries' Poets in Residence



Three poets have been appointed to spend time in three Buckinghamshire Libraries during April and May. **Aoife Mannix** will be working in Wendover, **Desree** in Burnham and **Simon Mole** in Hazlemere. Each will spend time getting to know their host library, its users and the local woodlands. They will then draw inspiration to compose a collection of original poems connected to each place which will be displayed in and around the library during June to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations.

As well as spending time in the library, where users will be able to chat and get to know each poet, they will each be running workshops on writing poetry for local community groups and schools. In **Burnham** workshops will take place on Saturday 07 and 14 May with the opportunity to perform as part of the Donkey Derby on Saturday 28 May. In **Wendover** there will be a workshops for families and then adults on Saturday 21 May and in **Hazlemere** there will be afterschool writing clubs on Monday 09, 16 and 23 May.

Project manager Katy Snelling says “Each town is near important and ancient woodland, land that for 100s of years has homed complex ecologies, provided employment and shelter and been a place of refuge and relaxation. The libraries may not be as old but they too provide vital services. We are delighted that for the next few months they’ll be a home for three brilliant poets and a meeting point for communities to try out writing. I can’t wait to read the words and ideas that sprout from these residencies.”

For more information on workshop details please contact the relevant library or visit [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries/)

The project is commissioned by Farnham Maltings using funding from the Rothschild Foundation and in partnership with Buckinghamshire Libraries.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

Any queries on the above can be directed to Katy Snelling, project manager, on [katy.snelling@farnhammaltings.com](mailto:katy.snelling@farnhammaltings.com)

**About the Artists**

**Aoife Mannix** is a poet and writer with extensive experience of working in community settings and libraries. She has published four collections of poetry and a novel. She has previously been poet in residence for the Royal Shakespeare Company and BBC Radio 4's *Saturday Live*. She has a PhD in creative writing from Goldsmiths, University of London. She has been writer in residence for Beckenham Library, Portsmouth Museum, and the Bronte Parsonage as well as Gosport Gallery's Artists Rifles Exhibition and previously worked in Buckinghamshire Libraries on the *Soap and Porridge* exhibition with Tom Cross.

**Desree** is a spoken word artist, writer and facilitator based in London and Slough. A finalist in 2018's Hammer & Tongue competition and TEDx speaker, Desree has featured at events around the UK and internationally, including Glastonbury Festival, Bowery Poetry Club New York and at the Royal Albert Hall. In 2019, Desree paired with visual artist Siannon Saunders, to create her first zine *Find Yourself A Place* and in 2020, she released her first single *Home* alongside Brighton based artist and producer, Bessi. Following the sell-out of Desree's first self-published pamphlet *I Find My Strength In Simple Things* in 2017, Burning Eye Books republished the pamphlet in May 2021. As a spoken word educator and facilitator, Desree uses her art to engage with young people and adults in schools, youth groups, offices and organisations – anywhere people have a story.

**Simon Mole** is an acclaimed children's poet (and sleep deprived dad) who has shared stages with Michael Rosen, John Hegley and Simon Armitage. His first picture book *Kites* was published in 2019, followed by *I Love My Bike* in 2021. Simon is a National Poetry Day Ambassador, with over ten years' experience using rap and poetry in community and education settings, including projects with Great Ormond Street Hospital and Arsenal Football Club. The tutorial videos at his YouTube channel are used by hundreds of thousands of children and teachers across the world each year, and have been featured on BBC Bitesize.

Farnham Maltings is a creative organisation that works with the artists and communities of South East England to encourage the greatest number of people to make, see and enjoy the best art possible. From a range of buildings, set in the heart of Farnham, we present events and workshops from large-scale craft festivals to intimate cabaret shows, as well as providing space for voluntary and community groups to deliver their own ambitions. We make new performance work to share with audiences across the UK, and particularly the south east; and we enable artists making craft, theatre and dance work to thrive by providing affordable studio and rehearsal space, offering producing and tour booking, developing networks, sharing resources and equipping artists with the skills and opportunities to promote their work locally, nationally and internationally.

Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, Farnham, GU9 7QR. Box Office 01252 745444 | [www.farnhammaltings.com](http://www.farnhammaltings.com)

Farnham Maltings is a Registered Charity No. 305034, Registered in England No. 954753



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**