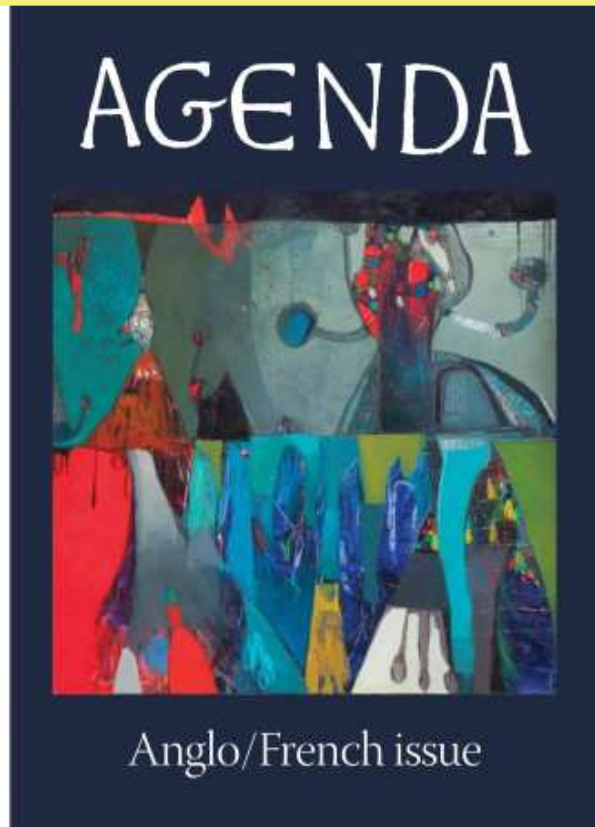
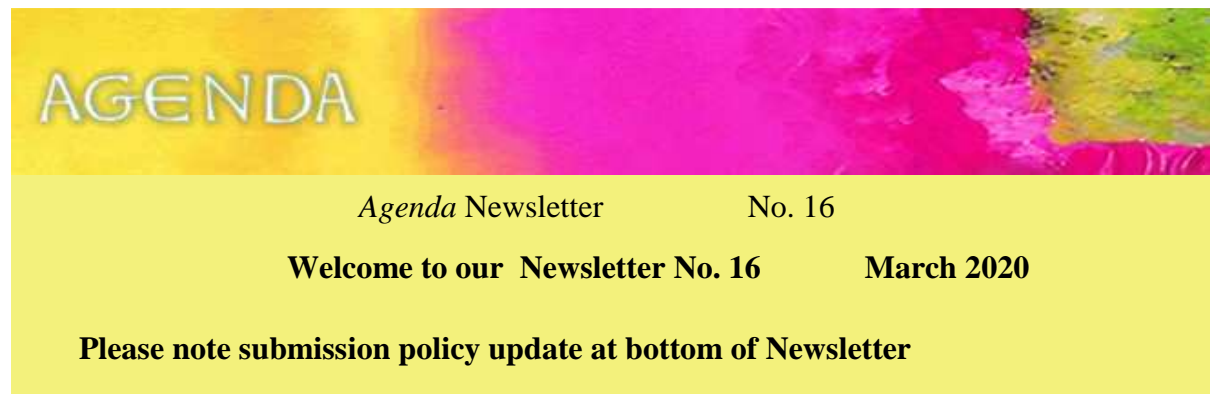


Posted 9th March 2020



Triple *Agenda* Anglo/French Issue Vol 53 Nos.1-3.

Continuing *Agenda*'s longstanding European/International remit, the above issue was published early January 2020 and has been very well received. Plans are being made for a launch, though the corona virus may well put a stop on that that. Any news or updates will be posted on Facebook and these e-newsletters.

This Anglo/French issue, in which the focus is on mainly living French-speaking poets - with a few exceptions - surely demonstrates how the arts, such as paintings, sculptures, architecture, music plus fiction and poetry have no boundaries, having been shared and swapped for centuries between cultures and countries.

Some might not be aware of *Agenda*'s long tradition of publishing and promoting important poets from all over the world. Regarding French poetry, *Agenda* brought out a French Poetry Issue , Vol 15 No 4 in winter 1997/8 in which, as stated in the editorial, and like in this issue, the poems 'range from "after", through imitation, version, to full-blooded representation' in order to produce good poems in English. **Keith Bosley, Peter Dale, C H**

Posted 9th March 2020

Sisson, Geoffrey Hill and **Clare Sheppard** were some of the translators involved. The English or 'Anglo' sections in this issue contain the usual uplifting variety of poems, by well established, lesser known and new poets, some of them inspired by France.

Go online, for [supplementary reviews, poems & paintings & Notes for Broadsheet Poets 32](#)

It is available via [subscription](#) or can be purchased at the *Agenda* [online bookshop](#)

Subscription Reminders

Many current subscriptions will now be due for renewal after receiving the current triple Anglo/French issue. **Reminders** will shortly be sent via e-mail. **Please, please** help us by renewing your subscriptions promptly and encouraging your friends to subscribe. A small cost saving for *Agenda* would be that if you have online banking facilities, please renew or start your subscription using BACS. Full details and a printable BACS sheet are available at the *Agenda* subscription page below.

[Renew your Agenda Subscription Page here.](#)

[Should you have any queries regarding subscriptions please e-mail Fred](#)

A Note on Subscriptions

Poetry journals are the life-force of poetry and poets too often rely on their work being showcased in them (to help themselves promote their work) without realising that these very journals need **them to subscribe** so that they can keep on helping them. Securing funding is increasingly difficult for the arts, especially poetry. Much of the labour spent producing *Agenda* by the editor and administrator is the labour of love with the small amount of funds raised through subscriptions and donations being used almost entirely for the administration and production costs. Subscription fees to *Agenda* have remained the same now for almost twenty years; unfortunately the costs have not. Mailing costs are astronomical, especially to outside the UK.

[Renew your Agenda Subscription Page here.](#)

Upcoming Issues

The next planned issue of *Agenda* is a **single issue**, '**Pound Revisited**' (plus an anthology of poems) to be brought out in the early summer. This will be followed later in 2020 by an **issue on Irish Poets in the UK**, plus a general section. For those poets based in the UK with any Irish blood in your ancestry, do send in some poems and, to support us, do subscribe for tips and inspiration.



Mayfield Festival

of Music and the Arts

**Special *Agenda* events in this coming Spring:
(Corona virus allowing)**

[Mayfield International Music Festival of Music and the Arts 2020](#)

Tickets available at the Festival link above

Thursday 23 April 2020, The Courtyard, Mayfield School, 6.45pm to 8pm £5 including a glass of wine

Introduced by **Patricia McCarthy**, Editor of *Agenda*.

Julia Copus was awarded an Honorary Fellowship at the University of Exeter in 2008. In 2010 she won the Forward Prize for best single poem '**An Easy Passage**'. She has served on the judging panel for numerous literary prizes.

Theresa Lola is a British Nigerian poet and writer. She was joint winner of the 2018 Brunel International Poetry Prize, and in 2019 became the Young People's Laureate for London. She was hand-picked by Meghan Markle for inclusion into the *Vogue* that she edited.

Saturday 2 May 2020, The Courtyard, Mayfield School, 5pm to 6.30pm £5 including a glass of wine

An Arthurian evening introduced by **Marina Warner** and launch of two Arthurian-inspired poetry collections published by London Magazine Editions, in collaboration with two artists.

Acclaimed poets **Patricia McCarthy** (editor of *Agenda*) and **Steven O'Brien** (editor of *The London Magazine*) launch their new poetry collections:

Patricia McCarthy's *Hand in Hand* (based on Tristan and Isolde) with artwork by **Carolyn Trant**, world-famous maker of art books

Steven O'Brien's *Wading the Marches*, with artwork by one of England's most valued and challenging artists, **Joe Machine**.

Posted 9th March 2020

Wednesday 6 May 2020, Pink Cabbage, Mayfield High Street, 5pm to 6pm £10 including Sitar music, Bengali curry and wine. Bengali-inspired poems by **Jessica Mookherjee** Jessica was highly commended for the best single poem in the Forward Prize 2017. Her first collection, *Flood* (2018, Cultured Llama), and her second, *Tigress*, published by Nine Arches Press in 2019 have been both very well received.

A special poetry and music event

Saturday 9 May 2020, The Courtyard, Mayfield School, 5pm to 6.30pm £5 including a glass of wine

Two highly acclaimed poets relate their work to music.

David Harsent will be talking about his work as a librettist, in particular his 30 year collaboration with Harrison Birtwistle, with particular reference to *The Minotaur* (Royal Opera House, 2008). He will also be reading from his new collection, *Loss* (Faber & Faber, 2020).

John Greening will talk about the importance of music in his work and will read a selection of poems with musical themes, including substantial extracts from his new book, *The Silence* (Carcenet, 2019), about the creative struggles of **Jean Sibelius**.

Music from Mayfield School's music students.



Please do visit the re-vamped *Agenda* website.

[Supplements, Essays, Reviews, Broadsheets/Notes and supplementary Poems & Paintings](#) can be found alongside the relevant magazines on the same webpage. Contents to all the magazines highlighted can also be accessed.

We hope soon to be able to offer **digital access** to a large amount of the magazines featured on the website, more details will follow later in 2020.

[Visit the History page](#) to read *Agenda* trustee **W S Milnes** talk given on the 5th October 2019 at the Artworkers Guild, Queens Square, London, to celebrate *Agenda's* **60th birthday**. Special thanks must go to fellow *Agenda* trustee **Timothy Adès** for organising and sponsoring the event and **Lord Grey Gowrie** for an enlightening and entertaining talk on his connections with *Agenda*.

[Patricia McCarthy's own Poetry](#) page has been added to the *Agenda* website to highlight

her own body of work with listings of previously published and forthcoming collections.

Submission Policy Update

Please remember that *Agenda* does not accept simultaneous submissions or generally accept previously published work.

One of the most problematic areas of running *Agenda* magazine, aside from finances, is submissions and responses to them. It was hoped that when we implemented our policy of only accepting online submissions, it would create a more efficient system by eliminating postage costs and enabling quicker replies. However, the ease of submitting via email has inevitably led to a considerable increase in the volume of submissions. As a consequence this had led to an increase in the time needed to read and reply.

Every effort is made to reply to as many submissions as possible. These submissions do provide the choice for much of the material we publish, and we do realise how important submissions are to each individual, and how rewarding and helpful it can be to have feedback. Our hope is that, by giving encouragement and ultimately possible publication, people will show their support for the magazine by **subscribing**,

'There will be a eight-week turnaround time during which every effort will be made to reply to your submission'. 'If you have not had a response during this twelve-week period, then we feel it is acceptable and fair to submit your poems elsewhere'.

As a change of policy, we are now **reducing the submission period** from three monthly periods to alternating open and closed two-monthly periods starting from May 2020. This updated policy will be posted on the submissions page of the *Agenda* website.

May - June **Open**

July - August **Closed**

Sept - Oct **Open**

Nov - Dec **Closed**

Preference on turnaround will still be given to **subscribers**, although every effort will still be made to reply to as many submissions as possible within the stated time. We hope to put a system in place to notify you that your submission has been received.

What kind of work the Editor would like to see less of:

- Oversentimental, cliché-ridden poetry; poetry with dumdidum rhymes that boss the poet into using particular words just for the sake of pat rhymes; poetry that is badly crafted and too prosaic, and poetry that does not come from the heart.
- Essays/reviews that use academic jargon ad nauseam, have too few examples, too few quotations.
- Essays that are too obsequious, too obviously pandering to the writer in question.

[Please visit the Submissions web page for further details on how to submit your work](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)

Posted 9th March 2020

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Newsletter compiled and edited by Marcus Frederick

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