

## Chrissie Gittins

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### Qualifications

BA (Hons) Newcastle University, English Literature and Language  
(main), Art History, Philosophy, Psychology, Politics  
Post Graduate Certificate in Education, Newcastle Polytechnic  
BA (Hons) St Martins School of Art, Fine Art and Critical Studies

### Publications

1997 **A Path of Rice** (Dagger Press pamphlet)  
1998 **The Listening Station** (Dagger Press pamphlet – children’s poems)  
2001 **Pilot** (Dagger Press pamphlet)  
2002 **Now You See Me, Now You ...** (Rabbit Hole Publications)  
2003 **Armature** (Arc Publications)  
2006 **I Don’t Want an Avocado for an Uncle** (Rabbit Hole Publications)  
2007 **Family Connections** – short stories (Salt Publishing)  
2009 **I’ll Dress One Night As You** (Salt Publishing)  
2010 **The Humpback’s Wail** (Rabbit Hole Publications)  
2013 **Professor Heger’s Daughter** (Paekakariki Press pamphlet)  
2014 **Stars in Jars, New & Collected Children’s Poems** (Bloomsbury)  
2014 ebooks: **Did I Miss Something? Now You See Me, Now You ...**  
**The Cat That Couldn’t Purr** (Inky Sprat)  
2015 **Between Here and Knitwear – short stories** (Unthank Books)

Poetry broadcast and published in magazines/newspapers including  
BBC R4 (Pen to Paper; Poetry Please), BBC World Service (Spotlight),  
BBC Radio London, Suffolk & Hereford/Worcester, The Rialto, Smiths  
Knoll, The Observer, Poetry Wales, Magma, Thumbscrew, Asia Literary  
Review, Orbis, Envoi, Independent on Sunday, South London Press,  
Mslexia, Southfields, Kent Messenger, Manchester Evening News,  
Obsessed With Pipework, Quadrant (Australia), Jacket (Australia),  
Oxford Poetry, New Shetlander, The Same (U.S.A.), The SHOp (Ireland),  
The London Magazine, Poetry Salzburg Review, Southword (Ireland).

### Children’s poems broadcast/recorded

2008 Oxfam CD of Children’s Poetry.  
2009 Cbeebies Poetry Pie  
2011 ‘Death in the Poetry Library’ South Bank audio tour  
2012 Cbeebies Rhyme Rocket  
2012 Poetry Archive recording and CD

### Anthologies represented in

- 1994 **As Girls Could Boast** (Oscars Press)  
1995 **How Maxine Learned to Love Her Legs** (Aurora Metro Press)  
2001 **Signals 3** (London Magazine Editions)  
2002 **Reactions 3** (Pen&inc)  
2002 **Adrift, from Belize to Havana** (Biscuit Publishing)  
2003 **Velocity** (Black Spring Press)  
2005 **The Poetry Cure** (Bloodaxe)  
2005 **Dance the Guns to Silece: 100 Poems inspired by Ken Saro-Wiwa** (Flipped Eye Publishing)  
2005 **Poetry Paper** (Aldeburgh Festival)  
2013 **In Protest** (University of London)  
2014 **The Book of Love and Loss** (Belgrave Press)

### Recent children's poetry anthologies represented in

- 2007 **The Works Poems for Assembly** (ed. Pie Corbett, Macmillan)  
2007 **Red Lorry, Yellow Lorry** (ed. Fiona Waters, Macmillan)  
2008 **Laugh Out Loud** (ed. Fiona Waters, Macmillan)  
2009 **The Jumble Book** (ed. Roger Stevens, Macmillan)  
2009 **Michael Rosen's A-Z: the very best of children's poetry from Agard to Zephaniah** (ed. Michael Rosen, Puffin)  
2009 **The Works 8** (ed. John Foster, Macmillan)  
2011 **When Granny Won Olympic Gold** (ed. Graham Denton, A&C Black)  
2011 **RSPB Treasury of Wildlife** (ed. Celia Warren, A&C Black)  
2012 **A First Poetry Book** (ed. Gaby Morgan and Pie Corbett, Macmillan)  
2013 **A Time to Speak** (ed. Celia Warren, Schofield & Sims)  
2014 **Let in the Stars** (selected by Mandy Coe, Philip Gross, Imtiaz Dharker, Manchester Metropolitan University)

### Awards

- 1990 Southampton Writer's Conference Short Story Competition, prizewinner ('Sandshift')  
1991 Lancaster Literature Festival, prizewinner ('Gutted')  
1991 Raymond Williams Community Publishing Prize, shortlisted, 'Somebody Said That Word – living in a hospice'  
1993/4 Blue Nose Poet-of-the-Year, shortlisted  
1994 Manchester Open Poetry Competition, runner up ('Archangel')  
1994 Poet and Artist Competition, Poetry News, winner ('L'Usage de la Parole')

1995 Greenwich Festival Poetry Competition, commended ('Psyche's Moan')

1996 Yorkshire Open Poetry Competition, prizewinner ('No Further')

1996 ICA New Blood Short Story Competition, prizewinner ('A Small Smudge of Blood')

1997 Poetry News Competition, prizewinner ('The Glass Mountain')

1998 Oppenheim-John Downes Memorial Trust Award

1999 London Arts Board scholarship – Morley College Summer Writing,

2001 Society of Authors Award

2001 Hawthornden Fellowship

2002 Poetry News Competition, prizewinner ('The Borrowed House')

2002 Biscuit Fiction Short Story Competition, prizewinner ('Treatment Room')

2002 Ottakar's & Faber National Poetry Day Competition, shortlist ('Armature')

2002 Royal Literary Fund Award

2002 Belmont Poetry Prize, 9-12 years category winner ('The Powder Monkey')

2002 Belmont Poetry Prize, 5-8 years category runner-up ('Bradshaw Plots His Revenge')

2003 CLPE Poetry Award 2003, Now You See Me, Now You ... , shortlist

2004 Middlesex University Poetry Competition, shortlist ('Dinner in the Iguanodon')

2005 Arts Council Grant for the Arts

2005 Mslexia Poetry Competition, shortlist ('The Man Who Carried a Picture of Hitler')

2006 New Writing Ventures Awards, highly commended by Ali Smith – creative non-fiction ('Lady Macbeth' and 'A Small Smudge of Blood')

2006 Poetry Book Society Choice for the Children's Poetry Bookshelf, 'I Don't Want an Avocado for an Uncle'

2007 CLPE Poetry Award 2007, 'I Don't Want an Avocado for an Uncle', shortlist

2007 Society of Author's Foundation Award Fund Writer's Award

2007 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, 'Family Connections', longlist

2008 'I Don't Want an Avocado for an Uncle' selected for Boys Into Books 5-11 yrs Booklist, School Library Association

2009 Arts Council Grant for the Arts

2009 Oppenheim-John Downes Memorial Trust Award

2010 Poetry Book Society Choice for the Children's Poetry Bookshelf 'Now You See Me, Now You ...'

2010 Poetry Book Society Choice for the Children's Poetry Bookshelf  
'The Humpback's Wail'  
2014 Manchester Writing for Children Prize (Poetry) finalist

### Short stories

Published: The Guardian

Magazines: The London Magazine, The Printer's Devil, Orbis, QWF,  
The Reater, Breakfast All Day, The Interpreter's House, Cadenza,  
Northwords Now, The Yellow Room, Litro

Anthologies: How Maxine Learned To Love Her Legs (Aurora Metro,  
1995), Signals 3 (London Magazine Editions, 2001); Adrift, from Belize  
to Havana (Biscuit Publishing, 2002)

Online: Horizon Review, Ink Sweat and Tears, The Lampeter Review

Judge: Short stories, London Writer's Competition 2004

### Radio

- 'Week-ending' BBCR4 – contributions 1993.
- BBC R4 **Poles Apart** – duologue starring Bernard Cribbins and Peter Jeffrey, directed by Martin Jenkins, June 14<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> July 1994..
- Selected for the first Write Out Loud - Arts Council radio course for writers (national submission) at Arvon Totleigh Barton, 1995.
- Presented a 'Postcard' from Thai/Burma border, East Asia To-Day, BBC World Service, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1997.
- Illustrated interview re. Poetry Society Poetry Place at the Refugee Council for Spotlight, BBC World Service, 13<sup>th</sup> November 1999.
- BBCR4 short story - **Matilda and One of the Twelve Dancing Princes**, read by Anne Reid 15<sup>th</sup> March 2000, repeated on Book at Bedtime, July 19<sup>th</sup> 2000.
- BBCR4 short story – **Treatment Room**, read by Stephanie Cole as part of Bath Literature Festival, transmitted BBCR4 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001.
- BBCR4 'Poetry Please!', read poem, **Pilot**, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2001.
- BBCR4 afternoon play– **Starved for Love** – starring Patricia Routledge , director Kate McAll, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2002. .
- BBCR4 'Poetry Please!' poem **Death in the Poetry Library** read by Roger McGough on 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Poetry Library, Royal Festival Hall, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2003.
- BBCR4 short story – **Family Connections**, read by Penelope Wilton 19<sup>th</sup> January 2004.
- BBCR4 Saturday afternoon play – **Life Assurance**, starring Sorcha Cusack, Gilliam Kearney and Jan Ravens, director Claire Grove, broadcast 19<sup>th</sup> February 2005.
- BBCR4 short story – **Between Here and Knitwear**, in a week of Christmas stories with a twist, read by the author 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2005.

- BBCR4 afternoon play – **Dinner in the Iguanodon**, director Viv Beeby, broadcast 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Repeated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2007.
- BBCR4 ‘Archive Hour – The People’s Place’, programme to celebrate the re-opening of the Royal Festival Hall, poem **Death in the Poetry Library** read by Roger McGough, 9th June 2007.
- BBCR4 short story **Just One of the Girls**, one of a trilogy of stories about ‘21<sup>st</sup> Century Families’, read by Phyllida Nash 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

#### Residencies and placements

- 1990-91 Springhill Hospice, Rochdale, Arts Council
- 1991-2 Belmarsh Prison, Greenwich Education & Goldsmiths
- 1994 Tate Gallery and St Bartholomew’s Primary School, Sydenham, Apples & Snakes, November- December
- 1995 HMP Bullwood Hall, Essex, Apples and Snakes, March
- 1995 Bangkok Patana School, Thailand, January/February
- 1996 Bangkok Patana School, Thailand, January/February
- 1996 Horniman Museum, project with stroke victims and adults with learning difficulties, Apples & Snakes
- 1996 Edgware Hospital Children’s Department, poetry placement with children with chronic illness, June & November
- 1998 Towner Art Gallery & Cavendish School, Eastbourne – ‘The Writer Goes to School’, University of Sussex
- 1999 Refugee Council, Poetry Society Poetry Place, Sept. – December
- 2000 Fen Edge Community, Cottenham, schools and community groups workshops in run up Andrew Motion reading, Millenium Festival Award, February – March.
- 2000 The Charles Keeping Gallery, Bromley, 14 writers and artists worked with 14 schools, DfEE Museum and Galleries Education, March – May.
- 2000-1 Marsh Green Primary School, Dagenham, with filmmaker and  
& 2003 choreographer,
- 2000-1 Maidstone Borough Council
- 2002-3 Twelve Southwark Primary Schools, gifted and talented
- 2003 School visits for the Highland Festival, June
- 2003-4 Croydon Libraries, October-February
- 2005 Ten Highland schools on the western seaboard, Aug - Sept
- 2006 Seven Mole Valley Primary Schools, Arts Alive Festival, Surrey, October - November
- 2006 Barlby Primary School, London, for NAWA/Writing Together Research Project, November
- 2007 Six North Norfolk primary schools for the Poetry-next-the-Sea Festival, January
- 2008 Five rural first schools in the Northumberland National Park for

- Hexham Book Festival, March
- 2008 Hustwaithe Primary School, Yorkshire, for NAWE/Writing Together Research Project, October
- 2008 Four primary schools Bath and N. Somerset for The Write Team, Bath Festival, November
- 2010 Shetland Isles, Shetland Arts, September,
- 2010-? Lewisham's first honorary Writer-in-Residence
- 2011 Look North More Often 2012 - Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree project with Norwegian Embassy/Poetry Society, November
- 2012 Look North More Often 2012 - Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree project with Norwegian Embassy/Poetry Society, Oct-Nov
- 2013 School visits, library and bookshop readings, Shetland, May

### Edited

- 1991 'Somebody Said That Word – living in a hospice', Springhill Hospice (Arc Publications)
- 1992 'Bang to Writes – creative writing from H.M.P. Belmarsh
- 1996 'Poetry Run' poems from Edgware Hospital Children's Dept.
- 1998 'Dooley Alibanger' – stories from refugee children at Monson Primary School, New Cross, London
- 2000 'Focus on Poetry' – Fen Edge community anthology
- 2001 'Thoughts in Corners, poems from six schools' Maidstone Borough Council

### Workshops and courses for

Arvon Foundation, Poetry Society, Apples and Snakes, NAWE, Able Writers/Authors Abroad, Cripplegate Foundation, Class Act Agency, Children's Discovery Centre, Barbican Education, Northern Children's Book Festival, Authors Aloud.

### Performances

Poetry Festivals: Poetry-next-the-Sea, Aldeburgh, Ledbury, Wenlock, Southwell, Torbay. Festivals: Hay, Hebden Bridge, Ilkley, Huddersfield, Wigtown, Highland, Wordplay Shetland, Edinburgh International Book Festival, West Cork Literary Festival. Universities: Newcastle, Salford, Kingston, Oxford. Guest reader: Carol Ann Duffy's Arvon course for children's poetry. Other venues: I.C.A., Buzzwords Cheltenham, Troubadour Coffee House, British Council Bangkok, Royal Festival Hall, Lewisham Theatre, Balnain House Inverness, Keats House, Maidstone Prison, Hazlitt Theatre Maidstone, Blue Room Newcastle, Battersea Arts Centre, Midland Arts Centre, Lyric Theatre, Manchester Central Library, An Tuireann Arts Centre Skye, Rhythm & Muse Kingston; New York: The Poets House, The Bowery Poetry Club and Cornelia Street Café.