

Raymond Williams Foundation

Reg Charity No 1126575

Exploring the poetry of Philip Larkin (1922-85)

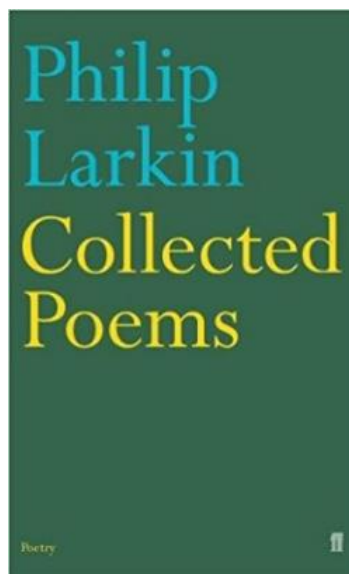
New residential short-course at Wortley Hall
open to all

Course dates: Friday 16th– Sunday 18th March 2018

Course tutor: Roger Elkin

Through reading and discussion, the **aims** of this weekend are to explore a selection of Philip Larkin's poetry.

The recommended edition is the one edited by Anthony Thwaite published by Faber and Faber ([available here](#)).



Philip Larkin (1922-85)

Programme

Though some poems have been identified for each session, the tutor is happy to look at any other poems suggested by members of the group.

Friday (16th March evening)

Participants arriving from 4pm

Informal gathering before dinner

18.30: Dinner

19.45: Welcome & Introductions

Session 1: Introducing Philip Larkin: Church Going; Annus Mirabilis; I Remember, I Remember; To the Sea; This Be The Verse.

Saturday (17th March)

08.30 Breakfast

09.30 Session 2: Documentary poems: Days; The Whitsun Weddings; Places, Loved Ones; Show Saturday.

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Session 3: Poems about Love: Talking in Bed; An Arundel Tomb; For Sidney Bechet: Heads in the Women's ward.

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Free time

16.00 Tea

16.45 Session 4: Larkin in fiction and in real life. Has his reputation been affected by what we now know about his private life? Can the reader balance the paradox of the writer's views and attitudes (reactionary, crude racist, sexist...), with his sensitive, tender, and often brilliant poetic insights?

18.30 Dinner

19.45 Session 5: Larkin - a grumpy old man? Toads; Toads Revisited; A Study of Reading Habits; Homage to a Government; Wild Oats; Going, Going...

Sunday (18th March)

08.30 Breakfast

09.30 Session 6: Time passing: Sunny Prestatyn; Mr Bleaney; Dockery and Son; Aubade...

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Session 7: Poem MCMXIV; Home is so Sad; conclusion and evaluation

12.50 Soup and sandwich lunch....
heading for home....

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Participants are asked to view in advance some of the many youtube clips on Larkin – documentaries; Larkin reading some of his poems; discussions; film interpretations of poems etc.

Course tutor:

Roger Elkin has taught poetry courses to adults in Further Education for over forty years. He is a published critic on mid-period Ted Hughes. As a prize-winning poet (55 First Prizes in International Poetry Competitions) and with eleven collections in print, he approaches the work of fellow poets with the insights of his own writing experience. In the past, Roger has successfully delivered poetry weekends for the RWF at Wedgwood College, Barlaston and at the RMT Education Centre, Doncaster on Elizabeth Bartlett, U. A. Fanthorpe, Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes, Sylvia Kantaris, D. H. Lawrence, Sylvia Plath, Carole Satyamurti and W. B. Yeats.

Registration:

The **full fee** for this study weekend package is £120 per person, which includes bed, breakfasts, lunches and evening meals. Places are limited, to book you will need to pay an initial deposit of £40 followed by a balance of £80 payable 3 weeks in advance of the event. To book or for further information please contact nick.mahony@gmail.com

Please note: up to two **RWF bursaries available** will be available to anyone in receipt of benefits. Successful applicants will receive the full weekend package for just £30 (plus possible support for travel expenses in addition to this). To apply, please email nick.mahony@gmail.com briefly stating why you would like to attend this study weekend and why you need a bursary. We particularly welcome applications from young people aged between 16-24.