



# Polesworth Poets Trail

December 2008

## What is the Polesworth Poets Trail?

The Poets Trail will lead people around Polesworth using a series of installations and art features to showcase ten different poems. The poems could be displayed in full or in part, on anything from a small piece of public art, a bench, a sign or even a plaque.

The project is set to run throughout 2009 and be completed and in place for people to enjoy by the end of the year.

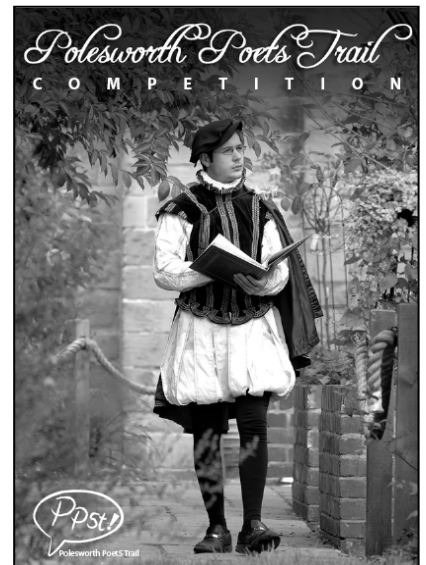
## Competing for £100 and a place on the trail

The national competition in search of poems to feature on the trail is set to run until the 31st December 2008.

The competition has received some great coverage in specialist writing magazines, the regional press and on a number of different websites. Adverts have also appeared in the Writers Forum magazine and Writers News, 2000 postcards have been produced and distributed, and a dedicated website has been set up—all with the aim of increasing awareness about the trail and the competition.

The competition comprises of four categories, two of which are related to Polesworth. People are required to submit their poems, of no more than 20 lines, using a pseudonym to make the judging process totally anonymous. In a separate sealed envelope they are required to include their poem title and contact details should they be lucky enough to win.

Anybody that would like to enter and would like to receive a copy of the competition rules should log on to the website - <http://personalpoetmal.tripod.com/ppst/> or telephone Malcolm on 07884 430142.



## Inspired to write



In preparation for the competition to gather the poems, four workshops have been held in Polesworth to enhance the writing skills of local people.

The four workshops, which each focused on a different aspect of creative writing, were led by professional poets who passed on their knowledge and experience. The workshops were well attended and were found to be an enjoyable way to learn a new skill or develop existing knowledge.

It is hoped that all those that attended will have been inspired to write and submit a poem.

## Local Children Get Involved in Poetry



PPST project leader Malcolm Dewhirst spent a morning with the children of The Nethersole Church of England Primary School where the children have been studying poetry over recent weeks.

Malcolm read some of his poems including one where the children made a word puzzle in which they then splashed about. The children made poetry kites and Malcolm was on hand to help them with their verses.

The morning finished with Malcolm judging the children performing poems for the schools entry into the BBC's 'Off By Heart' competition, where the children have to recite a poem clearly and correctly from memory. The chosen representative will go forward to the regional heats and if successful through to the final, which will be shown on television. Malcolm said that all the children who entered did really well, and had a real feel for delivering the poems with a good sense of rhythm and tone of voice. Following the recitals Rebecca Walker was chosen to represent the school. The Polesworth Poets trail project team would like to wish Rebecca the best of luck in the next stages of the BBC competition.

*(Pictured: Jodie Lukin, Katie Hunt, Thomas Bounds, Taylor Gibbs-Busby, Rebecca Walker, Drew Bostock and Charlotte Highes with PPST Poet Malcolm Dewhirst)*

## What happens next??

In January the three judges will begin the difficult job of choosing the eight winners from all of the entries that have been received. The winners will be notified of their success, and promotional work will begin to recognise their achievement. It is hoped that this will be done through press coverage and production of a series of postcards.

The steering group will then start working with local business/land owners, craftspeople and suppliers to look at locations for the features and ways to showcase the poems.

All of the pieces will then be produced and installed by the end of 2009.

### Would you like to get involved ...

If you would like to get involved in the project or would simply like to know more about it, why not contact Malcolm the Project Manager:

Telephone: 07884 430142

Email: [ppst2008@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ppst2008@yahoo.co.uk)

Or visit the website at <http://personalpoetmal.tripod.com/ppst/>