

# IAN HARKER

Poet, editor & reviewer



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Ian Harker is a poet and editor, co-founder of Strix magazine and an organiser of Leeds Lit Fest.

He won the Templar Book & Pamphlet competition in 2015, which led to the publication of 'The End of the Sky' that same year, and 'Rules of Survival' in 2017. He has been shortlisted for the Troubadour and Bridport prizes, and a runner-up in the BBC Proms Poetry Competition. He was also poet in residence at the Henry Moore Institute. His next pamphlet, 'A - Z of Superstitions', is forthcoming from Yaffle Press.

## Key moments

- 2019 Joins Leeds Lit Fest programming team
- 2019 Commissioned by Leeds Church Institute to edit *Poets, Prophets and Protestors* anthology
- 2019 *Strix* nominated for Best Magazine, Saboteur Awards 2019
- 2019 Collaborate with German poet on #LD50, celebrating Leeds' twinning with Dortmund
- 2019 Chosen for the 2019/20 Poetry Business Advanced Writing School
- 2018 Poem 'Blue God' featured in Belfast International Arts Festival Poetry Jukebox
- 2018 *Strix* nominated for Best Magazine, Saboteur Awards 2018
- 2018 Poet in residence, *Becoming Henry Moore* exhibition, the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds
- 2017 *Strix* founded May Day 2017
- 2017 *Rules of Survival*, first full collection published by Templar Poetry
- 2015 2017 Assistant Editor, *iOTA* magazine
- 2015 *The End of the Sky*, pamphlet published by Templar Poetry
- 2013 *Leeds Lieder*, collaboration for the Composers & Poets Forum with composer Aran Browning, *The Beethoven Frieze* (live performance feat. cellist & solo soprano)
- 2011 Co-organiser, LIPPfest poetry festival
- 2011 - 2013 Poetry editor, *The Cadaverine*, (e-zine featuring poets under 30)
- 2011 - 2013 Organiser & compère, *Poetry by HEART*, Headingley
- 2008 - 2012 Chair & Vice Chair, Leeds Writers Circle

## Qualifications

- 2013 CELTA Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- 2005 BA (Hons) 2:1 Communication Studies & Media, Leeds Trinity University

## Prizes

- 2022 2nd prize & longlisted, Yaffle Poetry Competition
- 2021 3rd Prize, Leeds Poetry Festival Competition
- 2021 Shortlisted, Leeds Poetry Festival Competition
- 2020 Commended, Yaffle Poetry Competition
- 2019 Shortlisted, Yaffle Poetry Competition
- 2019 Commended, Yaffle Poetry Competition
- 2018 The Leeds Peace Poetry Prize (Third place; judge Simon Armitage)
- 2018 BBC Proms Poetry Competition (runner up, featured BBC Radio 3)

- 2017 Leeds Peace Poetry Prize (Highly Commended; judge Malika Booker)
- 2016 *Remember Oluwale*, Valley Press (anthology; poetry category Joint Winner)
- 2015 Templar book and pamphlet Competition (winner)
- 2015 The Bridport Prize (Highly Commended)
- 2014 The Troubadour Prize (Shortlisted)
- 2014 The Bridport Prize (Shortlisted)
- 2014 The Guernsey International Prize (Winner)
- 2011 James Kirkup Memorial Poetry Competition (Runner-up)

## Selected publication history

- . *The Cotton Grass Appreciation Society* (with Simon Armitage and others)
- . *Any Change? Poetry in a Hostile Environment*, Forward Arts Foundation (ed. Ian Duhig), 2018
- . *The North*, no. 60 (August 2018) Review: Pablo Neruda, Robert Minhinnick & Steve Ely
- . *Portmanteau*, Indigo Dreams 2017 (contributor)
- . *Rules of Survival* Templar Poetry (2017)
- . *The North*, no. 58 (February 2017) Review: Ocean Vuong's *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*
- . *The North*, no. 57 (August 2017) Review: Adnan al-Sayegh, Claire Askew & Peter Knaggs
- . Feature, *Remembering Oluwale: iOTA* magazine, issue 96, 2017
- . *The Mask of Anarchy*, Templar Poetry, 2016 (contributor)
- . *Riot! My Chariot of Fire*, 2016 (contributor)
- . *The End of The Sky*, Templar Poetry 2015
- . *Versions of the North: Contemporary Yorkshire Poetry*, Five Leaves 2013 (contributor)
- . *Leeds Writers Circle Anthology*, Valley Press, 2011 (editor)
- . *A History of Woodhouse Moor*, Friends of Woodhouse Moor, 2008

## Selected readings, workshops & events

- 2023 - Devised & led series of workshops for Leeds Libraries for Community History Month
- 2022 - Co-wrote and performed *Poetry Supertram*, Writing on Air festival, Chapel FM
- 2021 - Guest reader, Otley Stanza
- 2019 - Performed for Dortmund delegation of LD50 twin city celebrations
- 2019 - 'Meet Me at the Man with the Barrell' performed live on BBC Radio Leeds
- 2019 - Guest poet, Home and Away, Wolverhampton
- 2019 - Lead poet, Leeds Intercultural Poetry Language Hub Project
- 2019 - Guest reader as part of Chapel Allerton Arts Festival
- 2018 - Guest editor, Algebra of Owls online poetry magazine
- 2018 - Judge, Otley Spoken Poetry Competition
- 2018 - Poem 'Landranger' featured in the Marsden Walking Weekend
- 2018 - Collaboration & live reading with Harry Man, North X North East Enemies Project
- 2018 - Leeds Lieder collaboration with composer Aran Browning

## Press

"Strix the new, Leeds-based journal of poetry and short fiction..handsome, streamlined and sharp-eyed like its avian namesake."—Carol Rumens, The Guardian Poem of the Week

"Transcendental"—Ian McMillan, BBC Radio 3 "a rare and special talent"—Dr JonWood, Henry Moore Institute

"As soon as I read the title of this poem I knew I would love it."—Kim Moore

"...an admirable talent..."—Sabotage Reviews "Average score: 4/5"—Claire Trévien

"I've come back many times to the poem 'Lazarus Awake', though much else here is worth revisiting. Lazarus poems abound, of course, but this is one of the best."—Helena Nelson, Sphinx Review.

"He reads with that clarity and confidence that I like, readings that follow the meaning of the poem and let rhythms work as understated counterpoint or harmony. He can do drily ironic, too. He has great timing. And he means what he's reading."—John Foggin