National Memorial Arboretum
Poet in Residence
CALL OUT

Located in the western end of National Forest, the National Memorial Arboretum is home to 150 acres and over 400 memorials.

The Arboretum has a wide variety of outdoor spaces, from woodland to glade, fields, and riverside. The vast and unique spaces are constantly evolving, throughout the seasons, key moments, themes and events that take place on site during the year.

We are looking for a poet who will take up residence in the grounds of the National Memorial Arboretum for 12 months and explore the surroundings, landscape, and memorials through the art of poetry. The aim will be to create a selection of unique and original poems (approx. one per month) for the duration of the residency. They will reflect the change in seasons, mood and ambience of such a significant site which a focus on sense of reflection, place, health and mental wellbeing.

In addition each month the poet in residence will facilitate a workshop session with a different community or educational group to explore the words, sounds and landscape of a chosen space or theme. Allowing them to think and write freely to develop a creative response.

Throughout the year the poet in residence will be expected to perform and showcase their work at various events held at the National Memorial Arboretum (such as Armistice) and outside of the site where the National Memorial Arboretum is represented (for example Timber Festival)

There is a growing evidence base and proven research which links poetry to wellbeing. We are combining this with the essence of the National Memorial Arboretum and the art of reflection and remembrance as well of the celebration of lives lived . It can help in the development of empathy and compassion, including self-compassion, which can be a strategy to improve mental well-being.
Poetry can provide comfort and boost mood during periods of stress, trauma, and grief.
Its powerful combination using words and metaphor to better help us express ourselves and make sense of our immediate surrounds and environment, the world, and our place in it.

Poetry can also be a tool for reflection and discussion, as well as a source of emotional support. It is a linguistic art form that can be written, spoken, or performed and is an inclusive and alternative language for many.

The process of artistic writing is a cathartic process, unpacking themes, topics and issues that maybe uncomfortable to explore in a different context.

Further information

- This role will be site based at The National Memorial Arboretum (DE13 7AR) for between 3-5 days per month.
- The contract will be offered on a 12-month freelance basis, and the successful candidate will be responsible for paying their own tax and national insurance payments.
- This role will require a full DBS

- The applicant should have experience in developing and delivering participatory workshops with both school age groups and community adult groups.
- The applicant should be a performance poet that feels comfortable sharing their work in both small and large scale event environments.

How to apply

Please submit an up-to-date CV and cover letter identifying key skills, experience and why you feel you are suitable for the role along with examples of you recent or most appropriate work.
to rasmith@thenma.org.uk
by **Monday 13th February at 12pm**

For all enquiries, including on access support, please contact Rachel on the email above.

Privacy statement

The National Memorial Arboretum, which is part of the Royal British Legion, takes your privacy very seriously and we want to assure you that your personal information is safe with us and we will never sell your details.

All proposals and personal information will be deleted 60 days after the submission deadline.

For more information on our privacy promise, please visit Our Privacy Promise | About Us | National Memorial Arboretum (thenma.org.uk).