

EMMA PURSHOUSE

Emma Purshouse is a writer, performance poet, experienced workshop facilitator and poetry competition judge. She performs at spoken word nights and festivals across the UK, often using her native Black Country dialect. She was the first Poet Laureate for the City of Wolverhampton.

Her appearances include, The Cheltenham Literature Festival, Ledbury Poetry Festival, Much Wenlock Poetry Festival, the Edinburgh Fringe, Latitude, Womad and Shambala.

In 2017 Emma won the 'Making Waves' international spoken word competition which was judged by Luke Wright.

Her children's poetry collection 'I Once Knew a Poem Who Wore a Hat' (Fair Acre Press) won the poetry section of the Rubery Book award in 2016. Her poetry publication 'Close' (Offa's Press) was shortlisted for the same award in 2018. Her debut novel 'Dogged' is published by Ignite Books.

She is one third of the poetry collective 'Poets, Prattlers, and Pandemonialists' who run slams, poetry nights, workshops, and poetry projects across the English Midlands.

Emma's poem 'Catherine Eddowes Tin Box as a Key Witness' came 3rd in the National Poetry Competition in 2021.

Her latest collection is called 'It's Honorary, Bab' (Offa's Press 2022).

Emma is currently editor of The Blackcountryman magazine.

"A whirlwind of wit and humour" – Write Out Loud.

www.emmapurshouse.co.uk

www.pandemonialists.co.uk

STEVE POTTINGER

Steve Pottinger is a writer, poet, and workshop facilitator, as well as being a founding member of Wolverhampton arts collective Poets, Prattlers, and Pandemonialists, who run poetry competitions on behalf of literary festivals in the North and Midlands.

He has performed the length and breadth of the country – including appearances at StAnza, WOMAD, Ledbury, and Morecambe Poetry Festival – and his work regularly appears online in CultureMatters, Yorkshire Bylines, and the Morning Star.

His poetry – in written, video, or audio format – has won prizes or been commended in multiple poetry competitions.

His seventh volume of poems, 'snapshots from the fall of home' published by Ignite Books, is out now.