



## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE

24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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### LAUREATE'S CHOICE POETS CELEBRATED AT THE YORKSHIRE ARBORETUM

With midsummer approaching, the Yorkshire Arboretum will celebrate the work of four Laureate's Choice poets selected by Carol Ann Duffy - Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom for the last 10 years, having recently handed now passed the mantle to Simon Armitage – at a Midsummer Poetry Reading, Fri 21<sup>st</sup> June 7-9.30pm.

The arboretum, a glorious 120 acre garden of trees on the historic Castle Howard estate, has hosted this annual event for several years. All four readers – Victoria Gatehouse, Karen Smith, Yvonne Reddick and Natalie Burdett – explore the complex relationships between humanity and space, and share their unique visions backed by the stunning grounds of the arboretum.

Victoria Gatehouse brings her cool forensic eye – she trained and works in clinical research – and evocative sense of place to her poetry, perfect for the arboretum's outdoor setting. Her pamphlet *Light By Light* was released by Valley Press in 2018. Karen Smith, a Cataloguer at The National Poetry Library, was educated at Goldsmiths, UCL and the University of Kent. Her collection of poetry, *Schist*, was described by fellow poet John McCullough as “brimming with healthy risk-taking and lit with tenderness...”

Yvonne Reddick, who's *Translating Mountains* was shortlisted for Leaf Arbutnot's favourite pamphlets of 2017 in the *Times Literary Supplement*, brings heartfelt poems that draw upon the melancholic beauty of Scottish landscapes. Finally, the arboretum welcomes Natalie Burdett, who contrasts with her explorations of urban place and community. Currently studying for a Creative Writing PhD, she released her pamphlet *Urban Drift* through Smith/Doorstop Books and shows her tender, uncanny insight in poems such as *Birmingham*, a love letter to the city, which rings with life and the sense of places 'in action'.

Tickets are £10 per person and include a free glass of wine or soft drink and nibbles. The arboretum will be open from 6pm for those wishing to take a stroll before the evening begins at 7pm. Copies of the Laureate's Choice Anthology, as well as individual poets' pamphlets, will be for sale on the night.

Book tickets through the Yorkshire Arboretum website at:

[www.yorkshirearboretum.org/events/midsummer-poetry-evening-2019](http://www.yorkshirearboretum.org/events/midsummer-poetry-evening-2019)

**ENDS**

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Yorkshire Arboretum and Ray Wood are gardens of the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, an independent charity (registration number 1044931) established to maintain and protect these unique collections. Founded in 1997 as a partnership between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Castle Howard, the Trust's patron is HRH The Prince of Wales.

The Yorkshire Arboretum is located opposite the entrance to Castle Howard and is open from 10am – 4pm every day from March – November, with extended opening at weekends from May – October. In addition to the 120 acre garden of trees there's a children's woodland playground, a café offering delicious home-cooked seasonal food and drink and a gift shop. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Admission is £7 for adults, £3.50 for juniors (12-16) and £17.50 for families. Under 12s are admitted free. Find out more at

[www.yorkshirearboretum.org](http://www.yorkshirearboretum.org)

The arboretum's annual event programme includes a wide range of family and outdoor activities, botanical and horticultural education, and arts and crafts workshops. Full details are available at [www.yorkshirearboretum.org](http://www.yorkshirearboretum.org)

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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