



**loutro writers – june 2020**

## poetry & writing

June 06/07 – June 13/14

**Tutored Retreat**

**Writing - Jenny Parrott**

**Tutored Retreat (invitational)**

**Poetry - Mimi Khalvati**

June 13/14 – June 20/21

**Inside The Sea Shell**

**Poetry Course – John W. Clarke**

**Playing With Story**

**Writing Course – Lucy Christopher**

June 20/21 – June 27/28

**Course & Review**

**Poetry Intensive**

**Kathryn Maris & Maurice Riordan**

**Writing Intensive**

**David Swann & Jemma Kennedy**

Orientation Dinners  
Sunday Evenings - 20:00



## courses & retreats

**Writers have always come to Loutro** - situated within the inspiring natural resource of South West Crete and bounded by its positive liberating energy, our writing courses bring together people, experts, ideas and artistic creativity. Arriving off weekend flights for the orientation dinners on Sunday evenings, the Courses & Retreats run from Mondays to Fridays, with ample free time outside the schedule.

The writers dine together again during the week, with a closing dinner on the Friday evening at a nearby bay for readings of course work, food, wine, moon, stars... then heading for their return flights over the following weekend, the room changeover days being Saturdays and Sundays. Respect for individual space is central to the Loutro writing proposition and all writers are accommodated in their own en suite sea view rooms, situated variously around the small village. There are 8-9 restaurants and 4-5 café bars to choose from, with food, drink and accommodation all reasonably priced.

**Full details online**



## June 2020 - Loutro, Crete

**The Courses** cover a variety of poetry and writing topics, with typical three hour morning sessions over the five days, short evening feedback sessions and a half day free for writing. Afternoons are free for immersing oneself in one's writing or for reading, relaxing, hiking, swimming, sunbathing etc.... evenings for dining...

**The Retreats** are appointment based for the expert assessment of material presented and reviewed on site. They work best with submissions that are well prepared, with poems approaching their final state, and with writing extracts from first sketches to maturing project. With abundant time to advance work in progress, those on Retreat are requested to attend without partners or companions, and with writing plans for the week.

**Course + Room + Food = £725 - £850 per week (7nts)**

**Flights - £150-£300** - with similar transfer costs to other secluded writing course venues, the extra cost to Loutro can often be the difference between an air fare and a train fare.

**Early booking** and young writer discounts are available



Tel: +44 (0)161 928 5768

[www.espirita.org.uk](http://www.espirita.org.uk)

[espiritaorguk@aol.com](mailto:espiritaorguk@aol.com)

Mobile: +44 (0)7973 394921

**June 06/07 - June 13/14, 2020**

Meet for Dinner - Sunday June 07 - 8pm

**Poetry Retreat ( by invitation ) with Mimi Khlavati**  
**Retreat Fee - £375**



**Mimi Khlavati** - one of the most inspirational and revered Tutors of the Poetry world, has published nine collections with Carcanet Press, including 'Child: New & Selected Poems', a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation, and 'The Meanest Flower', shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize. Mimi is the founder of The Poetry School where she teaches. She received a Cholmondeley Award in 2006 and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Her new collection of sonnets, *Afterwardness*, is a PBS Winter Wild Card.



With the wine dark sea, the magnificent scenery and a variety of eating places within easy reach, Loutro is ideally constituted for the Retreat process. There is good company at the various dinners and meeting points during the week, the writers and tutors may occasionally meet to share ideas and practice and there is on site management to make the week run smoothly. Retreat participants are requested to attend without partners or travelling companions. Six applicants per Retreat maximum.

**Tutored Retreats** - an ideal opportunity for an individual and expert review of your work, combined with abundant time for an undisturbed and sustained focus on your writing. After a short introductory group session, the Retreat schedule is appointment based over the five days, with timings arranged prior to your arrival in Loutro. At the initial meeting with the Tutor, two sizeable extracts from work in progress and a synopsis of previous works are presented for review, together with a general writing plan for the week, which the Tutors may oversee and inspire. The review process works best with poems that are approaching their final state, whilst submissions to the Writing Retreat can vary from advanced plans/first drafts to near completed works and may include plays, scripts and media writing. Expert guidance on the submissions is offered in subsequent private one-to-one tutorials and rewrites of reviewed material may be assessed by Tutors during the week. Not least, Loutro's strong suit rests in it being a great place for clarity of thought, for unravelling awkward technical writing issues, for unlocking complex creative processes. Further details on application

**Writing Retreat with Jenny Parrott**  
**Retreat Fee - £375**



**Jenny Parrott** - has acquired for Bloomsbury, Harper Collins and Little, Brown. Currently she is a literary consultant specialising in literary fiction, and tutors in creative writing regularly for Arvon and Faber Academy, plus she is the publishing director for Oneworld's Point Blank literary crime imprint. She has five of her own commercial novels contracted to Orion, and three to the HQ imprint at HarperCollins, each written under pseudonyms. Her free time is spent at the Kent coast, in the sleepy town of Deal.

**June 13/14 - June 20/21, 2020**

Meet for Dinner - Sunday June 14 - 8pm

**Inside the Sea Shell with John Wedgwood Clarke**  
**Poetry Course - £335**



When we close our eyes and listen to waves, do the waves have voices? What is the sea shell whispering as we hold it to our ear? How might we speak for the spiny sea urchin? During this course we'll explore how listening closely to the sea, and the rich inherited and contemporary poetics of the sea, may change the way we inhabit our voices and our relationship to the

natural world. We'll walk, listen, write and read by the water's edge, and for those who like to swim we'll take our voices and dip them in it! Alongside an attentive and ethical exploration of language in the world, we may regard the buoyancy of memory, both personal and cultural, that often surfaces on our return to the sea.



**John Wedgwood Clarke** grew up in St. Ives, Cornwall, and much of his work has been shaped by his interest in marine ecology and the poetry of the sea. His full collections include *Ghost Pot* (2013) and *Landfill* (2017) both from Valley Press. Clarke often collaborates on projects with scientists and other artists, with the results displayed in art galleries, museums and in the landscape. He is a lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Exeter.

**Playing With Story with Lucy Christopher**  
**Writing Course - £335**

**Playing with Story** - a good story starts with serious fun, so why not infuse the creative process with the spirit of exploration and fun, do you really want to subscribe to the stereotype of the tortured artist? For those with an untold tale to tell, or a story that's not quite sparked into life, or for those feeling a bit jaded by the slog of writing right now, we will check out the basic components of novel writing, but with a spirit of gentle, supportive, and playful exploration. Led by a master in Writing for Young People, who knows all about bringing a sense of joy and mischievousness to your writing



**Lucy Christopher** - an award-winning, best-selling author for young adults and teens, with a wide international readership; her books are published in over twenty-one countries. She has also written for children and adults, both in non-fiction and fiction, in short form and longer form. Currently she is editing an adult novel, and working on another YA novel. With a Masters and a PhD from Bath Spa University, Lucy is now a Reader in Creative Writing and the Course Director on the hugely successful MA in Writing for Young People at Bath Spa. She has taught internationally in many countries, and regularly travels for speaking engagements.

June 20/21 - June 27/28, 2020

Meet for Dinner - Sunday June 21 - 8pm

Fee - £595

**Course & Review** - regular 3 hour morning course sessions are combined with pm appointments for the high level professional reviewing of your poems or your writing. It's intense and costs more but it's worth it. And there will still be plenty of time to relax and enjoy

### Poetry Intensive with Kathryn Maris & Maurice Riordan

**The Companionship of Poetry and Prose** - Where does prose end and poetry begin? Why is there a tendency to view poetry and prose as opposites? We will explore poems and collections that use the techniques or tones associated with prose such as aphorism, journal entry, prose fiction, 'lyrical essays', as well as the classic 'prose poem.' This intensive course is aimed at all levels and will combine close reading with in-class exercises and light homework assignments.

**Kathryn Maris** (Course) is an American-British poet and critic who has published three poetry collections. Her work has appeared in Penguin Modern Poets 5, The Pushcart Prize Anthology, The Best British Poetry, The Forward Book of Poetry, Granta and Poetry. A selection from Kathryn's recent collection, *The House With Only An Attic And A Basement* (Penguin 2018), won the Ivan Juritz Prize for creative experiment.



**Maurice Riordan** (Review) - was born in Lisgoold, Co. Cork, and lives in London. His most recent collection of poems is *The Water Stealer* (Faber, 2013). Among his previous collections are *The Holy Land* (2007), *Floods* (2000) and *A Word from the Loki* (1995). He edited *The Finest Music* (Faber, 2014), an anthology of early Irish poetry in translation. He is a former editor of *The Poetry Review* and is Emeritus Professor of Poetry at Sheffield Hallam University.

### Writing Intensive with David Swann & Jemma Kennedy

**True Character - The Art Of** - in our favourite books, characters rise off the page and become as real to us as our friends and relatives. On this course, we'll explore the secrets that make this conjuring trick possible -- and dig into the roots of our ideas about 'character', an ancient word that was born in Greece, the land where famous thinkers developed the world's first great theories about characterisation. Expect high standards and good humour in a course designed for beginners and experienced writers alike.

**David Swann** (Course) - reporting Accrington Stanley football matches as his first job, David learned all about character-building early on. He is now a Senior Lecturer in English & Creative Writing at the University of Chichester. His collection, *The Privilege of Rain* (Waterloo Press, 2010), based on his experiences as a Writer-in-Residence in a prison, was shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award. Dave's stories and poems have won many awards, including eight successes at the Bridport Prize and two in the National Poetry Competition.



**Jemma Kennedy** (Review) - is a novelist, playwright and film and television screenwriter and has taught novel, script and playwriting extensively in the UK. Her plays have been performed at various theatres in London and beyond, Marathon, Braven and BBC Films have taken up her screenplay adaptations of novels, and she is currently writing her first stage musical *Electric Ladies* for Universal Music. Jemma created *New Views*, the online playwriting course for young people at the National Youth Theatre and her book on playwriting will be published later this year by Nick Hern Books.

**For Whom** - There are a variety of Courses from open creative Courses for all writers, including new writers, to advanced options for more experienced writers. Our Courses can be used as an inspiration for completely new work, or as an opportunity to apply a more critical eye to what you are currently writing. If you have never shown your work or discussed it with others, these weeks will offer a supportive environment to do so. They can also be used as an opportunity to get feed back from the group about any work in progress, or simply as a means of re-energising the writing process.



**Courses** - take place over five days from Monday mornings to Friday afternoons, and have a maximum of eight clients. Morning sessions (c. 3 hours) focus on content, as directed by the course leaders. Afternoons are free for immersing oneself in one's writing or for reading, relaxing, hiking, swimming, sunbathing etc. Course based feedback & work in progress sessions (1-1.5 hrs) take place in the early evenings, one half day is set aside for Course writing and there is a readings dinner on the Friday evening. Within these arrangements Espirita supports whichever way a tutor conveys their ideas, whether highly structured or deeply intuitive.

**Course Technicalities** - Please bring your own writing machines or materials with you, plus a European standard adapter for your laptop. Please note that there are no printers on site. English will be the language of the group.

**Writers arrive** from their flights on Saturdays and Sundays and there is an orientation dinner on the Sunday evening. The writing courses run from Monday mornings to Friday afternoons, with ample free time outside the schedule. The writers eat together once more during the week and then again on the Friday evening - an invariably joyous occasion following a boat trip to a nearby bay for readings of course work, food, wine, moon, stars etc... The writers head for their return flights from the following Saturday morning onwards, the room changeover days being Saturdays and Sundays.

For full travel details please go to 'Travel Information',  
on the Poetry & Writing page : [www.espirita.org.uk](http://www.espirita.org.uk)

**Accommodation / Food** Rooms at E30-E40 (budget) or E40-E50 (standard) per nt - we reserve / you pay. For personal privacy and individual creative space, all the writers are spread around the village in different houses, in separate 'Greek Island style rooms', simply appointed with sea view balconies, en suite bathrooms, towels & bedding provided. Upon Course reservation, we reserve a room for you, changeable on site by arrangement, which you pay for and manage on an independent traveller basis. Espirita does not offer the sharing of rooms by clients that do not know each other beforehand. Various tavernas offer an extremely good level of cuisine with many vegetarian options at reasonable prices, (E20 - E30 per day). The good food of Loutro begins with a gratis 'vegetarian feast' on the Sunday evening dinner of each week.

**Course + Room (7nts) + Food (7days) = £725 - £850/wk**

**Local Fees** - final invoices add £12 for Local Fees which Espirita pays on your behalf - for the Writing Terrace fee and for the boat transfers to and from the Readings Dinner on Friday evenings

**Etc** - Loutro still operates largely on a cash basis and clients should arrive with sufficient cash for the whole week. A gift shop and some well stocked minimarkets provide beach wear, basic commodities, fresh food and general groceries. Those on a tight budget should bring a travelling kettle and basic utensils for drinks and light meals, but allow for eating out in the evenings (c. E12-E15). Three or four stylish bars with laid back music offer a mellow starlit nightlife... Regrettably, the steep inclines and steps around the village are not appropriate for wheelchair use. Wifi works in the tavernas and cafes and there is a small Internet facility. Mobile phones cover most of Loutro most of the time, and are integral to on site communications.





## Course Reservation

Please check availability by making contact at : [espiritaorguk@aol.com](mailto:espiritaorguk@aol.com)  
Flights should not be booked until your availability has been confirmed.

**Upon reservation**, a £25 / \$40 deposit ( non refundable ) per person is payable by various means - bank transfer, card or cheque.

**Early booking discount - end of February** : There is a £25 discount for Course reservations received by the end of February. Should a Course become fully subscribed, confirmed flight bookings may need to be submitted.

**Young Writer Discounts** : Under 25yrs of age : £50 / 26yrs - 29yrs : £25

**A Fortnight's Writing** - The course dates and content offer maximum flexibility for those staying for two weeks. You can choose between Poetry & Poetry, Writing & Writing, Poetry & Writing or Writing & Poetry. For those booking two consecutive courses, there is a £25 discount. With just one unscheduled day during the week, a one week Course can be quite intense. But with 3-4 free days in a fortnight, attending two consecutive Courses feels more relaxed.

**Partners / Companions** - There is some availability each week for the partners or companions of writers attending Courses & Workshops. By application.

**Climate** - Apart from an occasional windy cool day, there is a 90-95% chance of perfect weather with highs of 27-33°C in June. Evenings and nights can be cooler in early June, for which jackets, sweaters and scarves might be appropriate.