



Poetry Club: online, inclusive and extracurricular



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The callout

Call-out: via Moodle emailing – almost 100 responses!

“I am very much looking forward to attending the Poetry Club!”

“This has really made my week! And made me really excited to be part of ual again!”

“I don’t know if it’s too late but I wanted to know if there’s maybe still a spot to read a poem tonight? I can finally attend the sessions and I’m very excited.”



How it works

Format:

- Teams group
- Wednesdays @ 5pm online (Collaborate)
- Format: “Theme of the day” + open mic

Themes include: translatability; types of poetry (haiku, sonnet, song lyrics, concrete; rhyme or no rhyme; computer code in disguise...)

Karen Harris • 3m

The Many-Languages Poetry Club

Introductory gathering

What is poetry? What is a poet?

What are the interesting topics surrounding poetry (e.g the challenges of translation/ relationship between form and meaning...?)

What would you like from the club? Is there anything you're keen to explore?

Any suggestions for the format (e.g. featured slots? open-mike...?)

ADD SECTION

- <https://artslondon.padlet.org/kharris208/poetryclub>
- Remember ... if you are signed in to Padlet, your name will appear above your post. Otherwise it shows as Anonymous.

Padlet page



Narrative poetry + art

The Lady of Shalott – poem by Alfred Tennyson (1833 and revised in 1842)

■ *I Am Half-Sick of Shadows, Said the Lady of Shalott - painting by John William Waterhouse (1915)*

- There she weaves by night and day
- A magic web with colours gay.
- She has heard a whisper say,
- A curse is on her if she stay
- To look down to Camelot.

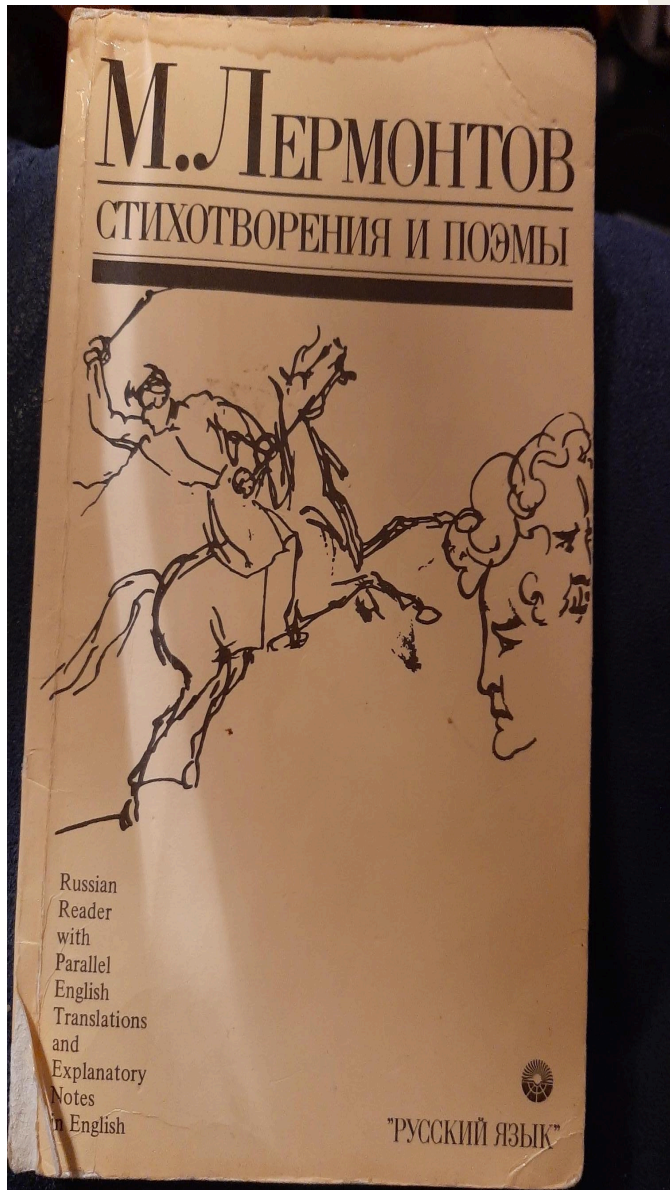


Narrative poetry + art

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner – poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1834)



**“Her lips were red, her looks
were free,
Her locks were yellow as gold:
Her skin was as white as
leprosy,
The Nightmare Life-in-Death
was she,
Who thicks man’s blood with
cold.”**



Poetry in translation

- How to keep the rhythm, the rhyme pattern... without compromising the meaning?

■ **Uznik** ("The Captive") by
Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov
(1837/8)

УЗНИК *

Отворите мне темницу,*
Дайте мне сиянье дня,
Черноглазую девицу,
Черногривого коня.
Я красавицу младую *
Прежде сладко поцелую,
На коня потом вскочу,
В степь, как ветер, улечу.

THE CAPTIVE

Break my chains and ope my dungeon,
Let me see the light of day;
Call you nigh a dark-eyed maiden
And a black-maned steed, I pray.
First I'll kiss the young maid sweetly,
Then upon the steed's back fleetly
Spring, and with a shout and cry,
'Cross the green steppe wind-like fly.

Same song, different languages

- 99 Luftballons by Nena (1983)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fpu5a0Bl8eY>



NENA | 99 Luftballons [1983] [Offizielles HD Musikvideo]

Same song, different languages

- **99 Red Balloons by Nena (1984)**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiwgOWo7mDc>



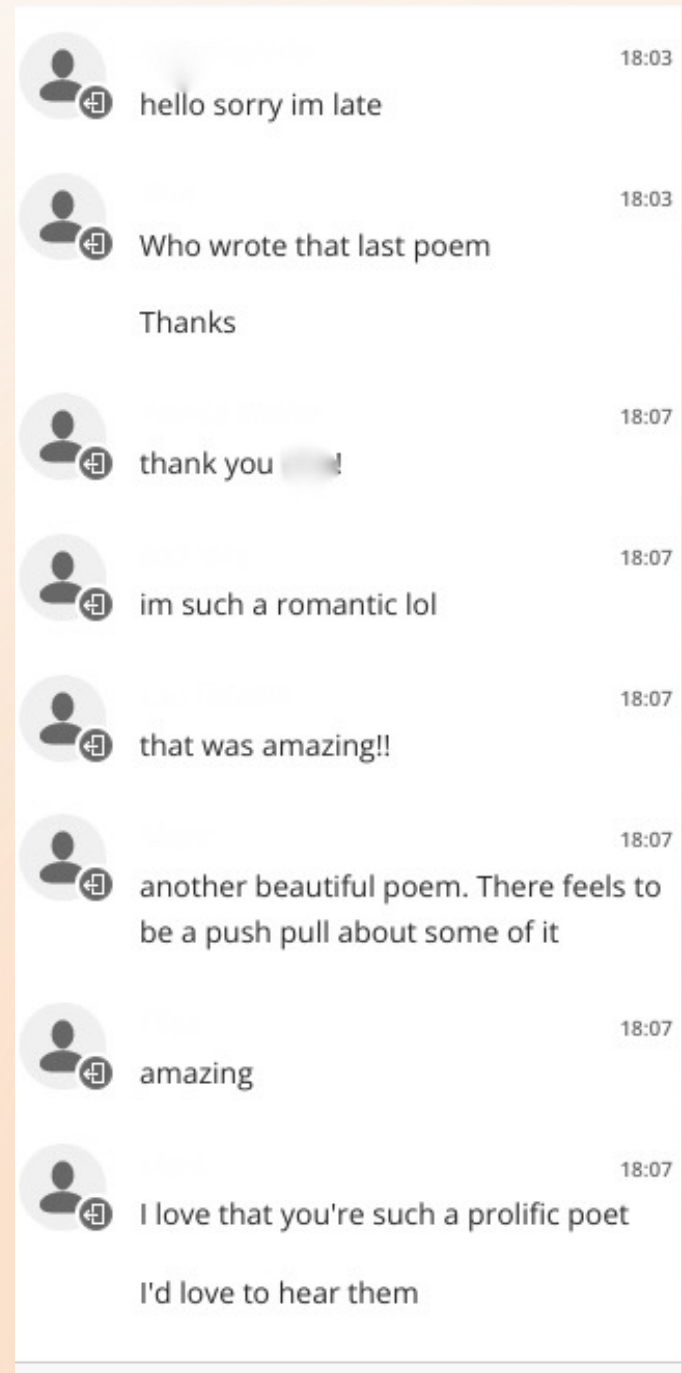
NENA | 99 Red Balloons [1984] (Official HD Music Video)

[https://www.youtube.com > watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch)



The successes

- Confidence-boosting,
and mutual
supportiveness
- Diversity of content





Student feedback

“Thanks for this poetry club. It brings much refuge and learning opportunities so thanks.”

“I had a blast!”

“Thank you so much for all the inspiration and support you give to so many of us with our poetic ventures!”





Student feedback (cont.)

“In my personal experience the unique thing about participating in the Poetry Club is entering a space open to people from different colleges, with interests in entire spectrum of subjects, approaching their core subject matter from different perspectives.

There isn't an expectation of the work to fulfill any particular criteria or even be poetry in a conventional sense.

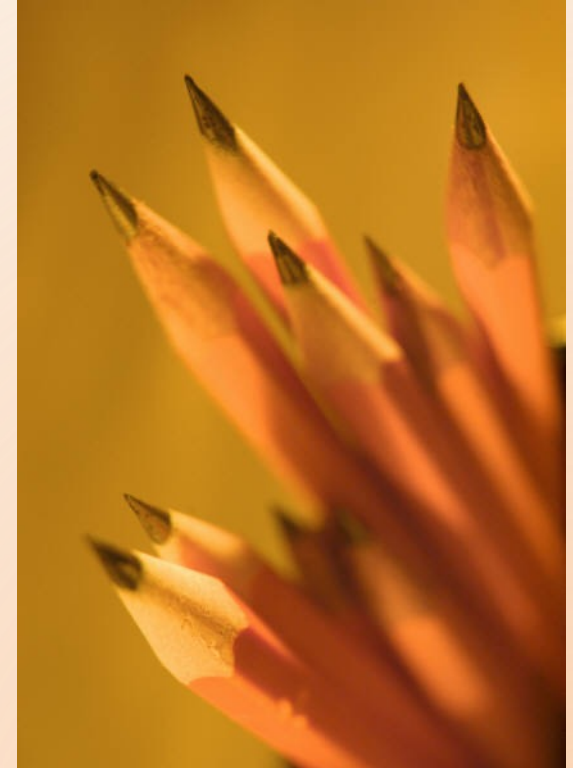
In my experience the participants encourage one another to have the courage to read out at times really intimate works.

I enjoy to atmosphere of acceptance and curiosity of one another.”



The challenges and future considerations

- A suitable time of day/
seasonality/ publicising/ getting
more languages involved...
- Can we make the Teams page as
lively as the weekly gatherings?
Is this necessary?



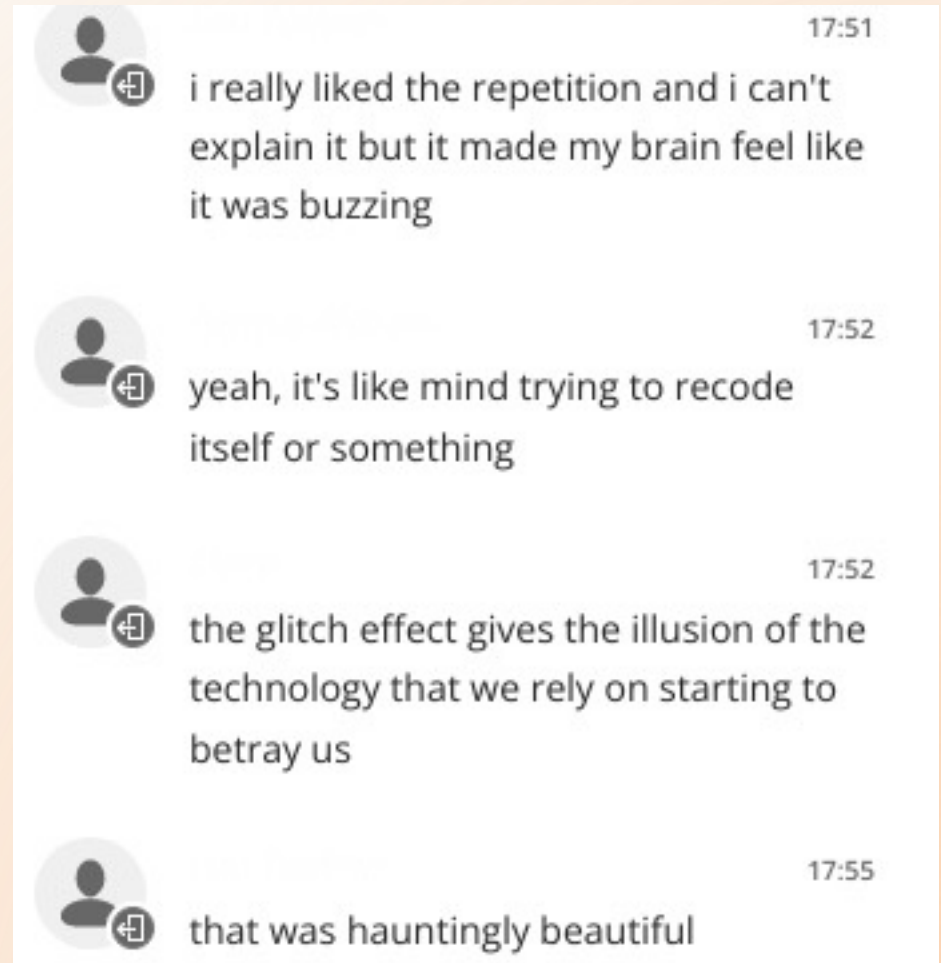


Overall...

So much (hidden/
untapped?) writing
talent at UAL

Students want to meet
and learn from one
another!

Language: creatively,
intellectually and
socially satisfying.

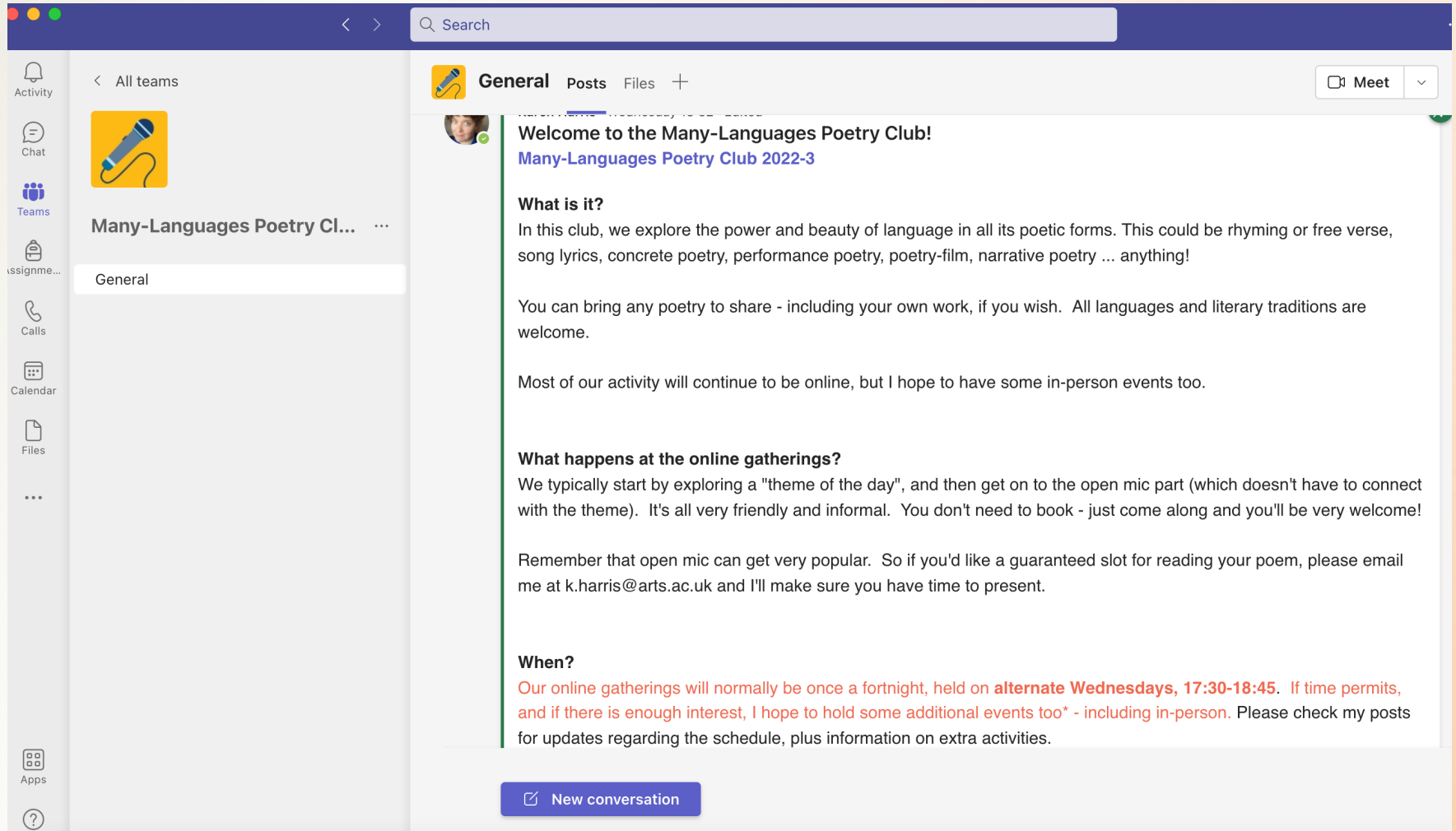




Future developments...?

- Reaching out to students of **all** levels of English
- Embracing multilingualism
- Structured activities (e.g. workshops, visiting speakers, zine creation...)?
- External collaborations/ links/ visiting speakers
e.g. British Bilingual Poetry Collective (BBPC?)
- In-person gatherings
- And...?

The new Teams page



The screenshot displays the Microsoft Teams application interface. On the left is a vertical sidebar with icons for Activity, Chat, Teams, Assignments, Calls, Calendar, Files, and Apps. The main area is divided into two sections. The top section, titled 'All teams', shows a list of teams with a yellow microphone icon and the name 'Many-Languages Poetry Club...'. Below this, a 'General' channel is selected. The bottom section shows the channel's content, starting with a welcome message from a user with a profile picture. The message includes a title 'Welcome to the Many-Languages Poetry Club!' and a subtitle 'Many-Languages Poetry Club 2022-3'. The message body contains three paragraphs: 'What is it?' describing the club's focus on various poetic forms, 'What happens at the online gatherings?' explaining the structure of meetings, and 'When?' stating the schedule as alternate Wednesdays. A 'Meet' button is visible in the top right corner of the channel header, and a 'New conversation' button is at the bottom of the message area.

Activity Chat Teams Assignments Calls Calendar Files Apps

< All teams

General

Search

General Posts Files + Meet

Welcome to the Many-Languages Poetry Club!
Many-Languages Poetry Club 2022-3

What is it?
In this club, we explore the power and beauty of language in all its poetic forms. This could be rhyming or free verse, song lyrics, concrete poetry, performance poetry, poetry-film, narrative poetry ... anything!

You can bring any poetry to share - including your own work, if you wish. All languages and literary traditions are welcome.

Most of our activity will continue to be online, but I hope to have some in-person events too.

What happens at the online gatherings?
We typically start by exploring a "theme of the day", and then get on to the open mic part (which doesn't have to connect with the theme). It's all very friendly and informal. You don't need to book - just come along and you'll be very welcome!

Remember that open mic can get very popular. So if you'd like a guaranteed slot for reading your poem, please email me at k.harris@arts.ac.uk and I'll make sure you have time to present.

When?
Our online gatherings will normally be once a fortnight, held on **alternate Wednesdays, 17:30-18:45**. If time permits, and if there is enough interest, I hope to hold some additional events too* - including in-person. Please check my posts for updates regarding the schedule, plus information on extra activities.

New conversation



*Please share your ideas with me.
Thank you!*

k.harris@arts.ac.uk



But first...

-go to https://artslondon.padlet.org/kharris208/poetry_as_cultural_doorway
to read/ hear “*untitled (we run)*”
by Petrica Bistran (BA Painting - Year 2)