

Coming up in 2019...



Bloodaxe Books, publication date 24 October 2019
www.bloodaxebooks.com – Eleanor Brown – White Ink Stains
Save the date and come to the party!

A number of these poems were written in response to recordings of interviews made for the Reading Sheffield oral history project. Eleanor Brown spent over a year listening to the audio recordings before starting to make the poems, some of which stay very faithful to the speaker's own words, while others travel further into an imaginative or active, poetic listening; these are the poems she heard not in what was said, but in pauses, intonations, emphasis, whispers, asides, digressions and deflections.

Taking her title from the idea that when a woman writes about her experience as a woman, "she writes in white ink" (Hélène Cixous), Eleanor wanted to inscribe, among other things, the invisible labour of endowing infants with their mother tongue, their birthright of speech and language skills – the babbling, cooing, phonic repetition, echolalia, chanting of nonsense-words, singing of lullabies, nursery rhymes, counting rhymes, clapping songs, and telling of bedtime stories that is often the unrecorded work of women with pre-school-age children.

Happy Christmas!



Inside: a thrilling annual update from your busy friends in the Reading Sheffield team! Follow our exciting 2018 adventures; find out what's new on our super website, who's had what published this year, and what we've got in store for 2019...

www.readingsheffield.co.uk

Our smashing website is designed and maintained by artist Lizz Tuckerman and audio alchemist Dennis Tuckerman.



Here you can read the transcripts and listen to the audio recordings of your interviews, see Lizz's portraits of our readers, and find many other wonderful pictures and photographs our research has uncovered!

Unstoppable Ideas Woman Val Hewson, website editor, keeps our blog brim full of fascinating content! Recent entries include the text of a Christmas play written and produced by Sheffield library staff in 1949/1950. Also:

memories of *Dr Dolittle* (the fattest book a child could find in Attercliffe library in 1935) and a recipe for home-made furniture cream from the 1939 *Book of Hints and Wrinkles*.



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Sheffield Libraries and Book Clubs 1771-1850

Loveday Herridge and Sue Roe, who interviewed many of you, co-authored an essay which was accepted for publication in this academic book:



Before the Public Library
Reading, Community and Identity in the Atlantic World, 1650-1850
Series:
Library of the Written Word - The Handpress World
Library of the Written Word, Volume: 61
Editors: Mark Towsey and Kyle B. Roberts

The book launch was held in April in the Lord Mayor's parlour – our artists Jean Compton and Lizz Tuckerman contributed splendid display materials. A detailed account appeared in the *Sheffield Telegraph* on Friday 6th April.



Three of our team gave talks in Sheffield's Heritage Open Days in September!

Val Hewson spoke about the history of the Tinsley Carnegie Library at the Tingas Centre.

Sue and Loveday spoke in the Upper Chapel about the remarkable contribution made by Unitarian women to our city's cultural life.

Mary Grover is continuing to write her book about the project, *Running Up Eyre Street*.

In September she delivered a paper at a conference celebrating the 250th anniversary of Leeds Library, based on research by her and Val. Hurrah!

