

FSP Membership for 2019 was well over 100. This is very pleasing to see FSP continuing to attract strong membership numbers. And again in 2019, we have attracted more new poets with FSP Box Factory attendances very good. Poets have been respectful of the 3-minute rule with 1 exception. That person was given a 1 year ban from reading.

The New Poets series continued its success with the launch of New Poets 20 in November. Sales were going very well until the pandemic restrictions occurred. I congratulate Alys, Julia & Sharon on winning their place in this publication. I thank Judge & Editor, Steve Evans on a wonderful job of getting the book ready for launch.

The Single Poets series was resurrected last year with Ben Adams's 1st full book of poetry also launched in November. I thank Judge, David Ades & Editor Steve Evans.

The Coronavirus pandemic has meant meetings are no longer possible until the restrictions are lifted. It has meant the AGM & Anthology No 44 meeting scheduled for 6th April was cancelled. The annual Anthology will be launched at a later date.

The AGM is now an online format.

~~~ **Friendly Street Poets is still functioning** ~~~

Until meeting restrictions are lifted, Editors Elise Silson & Glen Johns will be accepting online submissions for **Anthology No 45**. We are working on setting that up on the FSP website & will be accepting poetry next month.

Elise Silson set up a Facebook Page for uploading recorded poems. You can upload your poems to the "**Friendly Street Poets – 'Open Mic' Faces and Voices 2020**" page.

There will be a "**People's Choice**" Winner each month. We will announce the process soon.

The **New Poets 21** competition is running. We extended the closing date to Friday 1st May.

I would like to thank this Committee for being so easy to work with. The Committee Members are able to work positively together & have achieved much.

Memberships are up, attendances are up, book sales are up, income is up & the Single Poet Series was resurrected successfully.

Thank you to Margaret Clark as the outgoing Secretary.

Thank you to Roger Higgins for his role as Treasurer.

Thank you to David Harris for his role as Membership Manager.

Thank you to Elise Silson & Glen Johns for volunteering to be Editors for Anthology No 45.

Thank you to Valerie Volk for being my co-Editor for Anthology No 44.

Thank you to Kristy Willett for volunteering to staff the Sign-in desk on a permanent basis.

Thank you to Jelena Dinic & Ian Gibbins for running the Halifax Poets Series, both of which add to the FSP brand.

And a huge thank you to Ian Gibbins for all the IT work he does behind the scenes.

This Committee works very well together & has achieved a great deal. I hope members appreciate what they do in their name. Without good people volunteering for the Committee, this organisation would not function.

Nigel Ford