

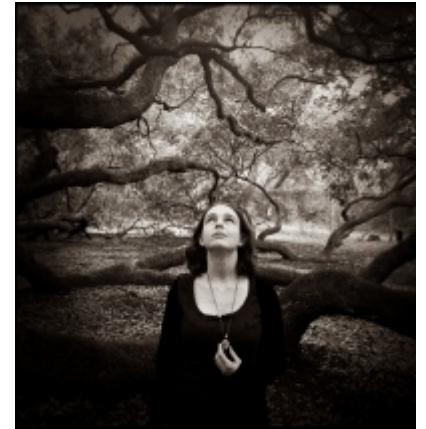
2014 Manchester Writing for Children: Finalists (in alphabetical order):

Short-list:

- **Carole Bromley** teaches Creative Writing for York University. She has been widely published in magazines and anthologies and has two pamphlets and a full-length collection (*A Guided Tour of the Ice House*) with Smith/Doorstop Books. Twice a winner in the Poetry Business Book and Pamphlet Competition, she has also won a number of first prizes, including the Bridport. Her interest in writing for children comes from many years teaching in secondary schools and from her own four children and 11 grandchildren.



- **Ashleigh Gill** is an MFA student of Children's Literature at Hollins University in the USA. She is also the playwright and co-founder of the theatre group Ars Creo in her hometown of Hinton, West Virginia.



- **Louise Greig** lives in Aberdeen with her husband, where they run a management consultancy business. She has a keen interest in animal welfare and is a director of a dog rehoming organisation. Following a career in the airline industry, she embarked on a European business degree with languages. She subsequently studied photography, which for many years was her main creative outlet. Although a relative newcomer to writing, she has been captivated by literature and poetry since childhood and is currently working on a series of rhyming books for children.



- **Kate O'Neil** comes from New South Wales, Australia where she has taught literature for over thirty years, first as an English teacher and then as a teacher of Speech and Drama at Wollongong Conservatorium of Music. She gives individual coaching to students working on the interpretation and performance of chosen texts for exams, eisteddfodau and auditions. Kate has had a small number of poems published in *The Voice*, the magazine of The Speech and Drama Association of NSW. Kate and her husband live near the sea in the Northern Illawarra region of NSW and have three adult daughters, and four grandchildren.



- **Christine Poreba** has written poetry for close to twenty years, though only more recently for a child audience. Originally from New York City, she now lives in Tallahassee, Florida with her husband, their young son and their furry, red dog – a Bahamian stray who is the inspiration for her manuscript of dog poems *The King of the Dance*. Her poetry for adults has been published in numerous journals, including *The Sun*, *The Southern Review*, and *Subtropics*, as well as in an anthology entitled *Bridging NYC*. She has been awarded prizes from *The Atlantic Magazine* and the Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Memorial Fund and residencies from Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Hambidge Arts Center and Ragdale Foundation.



- **Jennifer Watson** has been writing since she was tall enough to reach the old Corona on her dad's desk. She left her Cabinet Office career of 16 years to have two children and forgot to go back. Her husband sometimes draws this to her attention. After writing in spare moments and studying in the evenings, she was awarded the Open University's Diploma in Literature and Creative Writing in 2011. She has had a story shortlisted for the Bridport Prize and has been shortlisted for the Wasafiri New Writing Prize. She lives in a small village in Kent. Jennifer says, "For me, the joy of writing has been the closing of the circle – weaving the stories and spinning the rhymes that the younger me would have wanted to share if she had had the language and more typewriter ribbon."



Long-list:

- **Leone Annbella Betts** is a writer, illustrator and teacher. She was born in Birmingham but grew up in France and rural West Wales. She read Arabic with Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at the University of Durham, took a long look at the world, then hurried off to film school in the hope of telling stories about it. Since then, she has

completed a PGCE, set up a small business, written lots for children, found a co-writer and lost all artistic pretension. She loves reading just as much as writing and has always been surrounded by words, thanks to a book-loving mum. These days, Leone can be found in Yorkshire, where she works as a part-time screenwriting lecturer at the Northern Film School in Leeds. She has always taken great pleasure in teaching and especially enjoys seeing literature engaging the young.



- **Rose Flint** is a poet, artist and art therapist. She has taught Creative Writing for schools and universities including Liverpool John Moores and Bath Spa. She was Lead Writer for the Kingfisher Project in Salisbury for eight years, working in both the community and at the hospital. She was a tutor for the Creative Writing for Therapeutic Purposes MSc from Metanoia, in Bristol and London, and is now part of a team of artists who work with the elderly in Salisbury District Hospital and other healthcare centres. Residential teaching includes Arvon and Ty Newydd and she is a regular poetry performer in the South West. A prize winning poet, awards include Cardiff International Poetry Competition and the Petra Kenny International Poetry Prize, two Poetry Places and a Year of the Artist award. Her collections are *Blue Horse of Morning* (Seren), *Firesigns* (Poetry Salzburg) *Nekyia* (Stride) and *Mother of Pearl* (PSAvalon) and her poetry is published in many anthologies and magazines.



- **Chrissie Gittins'** first children's poetry collection *Now You See Me, Now You...* was shortlisted for the inaugural CLPE Poetry Award in 2003 and selected as a Poetry Book Society Choice for the Children's Poetry Bookshelf in 2009. Her second collection *I Don't Want an Avocado for an Uncle* was shortlisted for the CLPE Award 2007 and was a PBS Choice for the CPB. Her third children's collection *The Humpback's Wail* appeared in 2010 and is also a PBS Choice for the CPB. Her new and collected children's poems *Stars in Jars* was published by Bloomsbury in February 2014. Chrissie has read her children's poems at the Hay, Wigtown, Ilkley, Aldeburgh, Ledbury, Wenlock, Edinburgh, Shetland and West Cork festivals, and in the Children's Room of the Poets House New York. She has contributed to Cbeebies and has recorded her children's poetry for the Poetry Archive.



- **Matt Goodfellow** is a poetry writing primary school teacher from Manchester. He was supposed to be a rock star by now, but realised he was rubbish at the singing and guitar playing bits of it; the lyrics gradually developed into the poems he has been concentrating on for the last few years. Matt lives with his wife, Joanna, and two children. His writing is influenced by folklore and the wild beauty of the English countryside. Matt's poems for children and adults have appeared in anthologies and magazines in the US, UK, South Africa and Australia.



- **Louise Greig:** another portfolio from Louise has been short-listed – her biography can be found in the "Short-list" section.



- **Rowland Molony** taught English for thirty years. These days he and his wife Elizabeth spend a lot of time playing together with their three small grandsons. He has written poems for most of his life – so far. Some win prizes. Some get read aloud at jazz and music events. Most go into a drawer in his desk. In 2007 he published a story for older children with Oxford University Press called *After the Death of Alice Bennett*. In the summer he is busy looking after several hives full of bees on a Devon clifftop. He writes a column about this in the *British Beekeepers News Magazine*.



Highly Commended:

- John Gallas, Markfield, UK
- Matt Goodfellow Stockport, UK (another portfolio from Matt has been long-listed)
- Sue Hardy Dawson, Harrogate, UK
- Sneha Susan Shibu, Uganda
- Sarah J Dodd, Lancaster, UK
- Anthony Watts, Taunton, UK
- Freeman Chatman, Newfoundland, Canada
- Hannah Meiklejohn, Swansea, UK
- Rob Mooney, Bingley, UK
- Wendy Bradley, North Shields, UK
- Ros Palmer, Kent, UK
- Jane Aldous, Edinburgh, UK
- Joanne Probert, Stockport, UK
- Mark Granier, Dublin, Ireland
- Ade Hall, Lancaster, UK
- Heather Reid, Abernethy, UK
- Sarah Maclennan, Liverpool, UK
- Susan Peta Thompson, Exeter, UK
- Shaun Traynor, London, UK
- Charity Novick, London UK