

## **One Day Course**

### ***An Introduction to Violet Jacob's Life & Work***

**The Course Tutors: Lisa Simmons and Sheila Mann**

**Date: 17 May, 9.30am – 4.30pm**

See booking form for all costs



**About Hospitalfield** - Over a period of 120 years the house and grounds of Hospitalfield House, in its wonderful location overlooking the north sea on the north east coast of Scotland, has hosted and facilitated artists, students, educators, writers and others working within the broad themes of contemporary art, design and cultural ideas. This is a place that has had a central role in the arts and cultural ecology of Scotland for a very long time and will continue as it has; an organisation facilitating the culture of our time, attentive to the required changes and organisational shifts that will enable us to respond to contemporary questions within art and culture.

The extraordinary architecture, vivid Victorian collections and exceptional early arts and crafts interiors of the house, experienced in combination with the beautiful surrounding landscape, make Hospitalfield an impressive place to visit and resource for learning. The purpose of the organisation remains close to the original bequest and aims always to frame its history and collections for visitors whilst also investing in artists today, so playing an active part in creating the art and cultural history of the future.



**About the Course** - Violet Jacob gets far less attention than her writing deserves. Born into an old aristocratic Angus family in 1863, she was raised at The House of Dun, a grand house, now in the ownership of the National Trust, situated on the outskirts of Montrose.

Hospitalfield continues to develop an Angus Writers Programme with Violet Jacob as a key focus of the initial events. This follows our aspiration to draw attention to the great contribution that artists and writers from the east coast of Scotland have made to Scottish culture and Violet Jacob is amongst the most outstanding. She travelled extensively and wrote about her experiences at home and abroad - often using Scottish dialect. Her body of work tells us a great deal about life as a woman in the late 19th and early 20th century and also gives an insight into the lives of others she encountered while living in rural Angus.

For this course you will spend a day at Hospitalfield House immersed in the life and works of Violet Jacob (1863-1946). The two course tutors have a thorough knowledge of different aspects of her biography and body of poetry and prose and will share this with you in programme which includes talks, recitals, reference materials and discussion.

This course offers you a chance to get to know more about this writer, gain knowledge about the breadth of her writing activities and come together to discuss her work. Hospitalfield House provides the perfect setting to take time out and focus upon the life of an Angus woman who left an ineradicable influence upon Scottish writing.

**About Lisa Simmons** - Violet Jacob and her writing is a particular passion of Lisa Simmons since she was first introduced to her work at school. This course offers participants the chance to benefit from the knowledge and enthusiasm which Lisa brings to the subject.

Since graduating from The University of Dundee in 1995 with a MA honours degree in English and Education Lisa has taught in wide variety of learning environments. For the past fourteen years she has been employed by the University of Dundee's Continuing Education Department, teaching a variety of local history and genealogy courses. More recently completing a Post Graduate Masters Module in Sound and Vision Archiving at The University of Dundee.

**About Sheila Mann** - Sheila Mann is a retired primary head teacher who taught in the Howe o' the Mearns area. For the last seven years she has worked as a guide at The House of Dun. Her interest in Violet Jacob's poetry was sparked by hearing Jim Reid sing *The Norlan Wind (The Wild Geese)* 40 year ago. Now Sheila gives talks about Violet Jacob using her poetry to animate the talk. Jacob's Scottish Poetry has a special appeal to Sheila because of its 'music', humour, pathos and characters as well as the insight which it provides into the rural way of life of old Angus and the scots language.

**Reading List** – It's not essential but you may wish to do some reading in advance:

*Flemington* (1911)

*The Songs of Angus* (1915)

*More Songs of Angus and Others* (1918)

*Tales of My Own Country* (1922)

*The Scottish Poems of Violet Jacob* (1944)

*The Lum Hat and Other Stories: The Last Tales of Violet Jacob* (1980)

*Diaries and Letters from India* (1990)

## **Timetable for the Course: Saturday 17 May**

9.30am	Arrival, meet for refreshments in The Refectory.
10am	Tour of Hospitalfield House – for cultural and contextual setting for the day ahead.
10.45am	Violet Jacob – her life & work - biographical talk with readings.
1pm	Lunch - provided by Hospitalfield's Chef.
2pm	Violet Jacob – reading her poetry and prose, with opportunity for open discussion and questions.
4pm	Break for afternoon tea - with continued opportunity for discussion and feedback.
4.30pm	Day course comes to an end.

Please contact Laura Simpson, Programme Manager with any enquiries: [courses@hospitalfield.org.uk](mailto:courses@hospitalfield.org.uk)

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