

The Georgian Poetry Prize 2020



Thank you

The theme of the inaugural Georgian Poetry Prize was 'Thank you' – thank you to the NHS staff, carers and all key workers who have risked their lives to help and protect us during the Coronavirus epidemic.

Inspired by the wonderful Michael Rosen who has written a number of odes to health workers, we have encouraged students to use the poetic form to celebrate those who are showing such bravery in such difficult times.

Thank you to everyone who has entered and taken part in our project of positivity.

Lower school entries

A poem for the NHS

In these mad and scary times,
there are doctors, nurses, carers and more
tirelessly working each hour that chimes,
healing lives at huge risk to their own
how can we thank them for the warmth
they have shown?

We thank them with praise and applaud
when we can,
we stay home, stay safe and lockdown
with our clan.
At times it seems hard and sometimes quite
dull,
but remember this is a time to protect family,
friends and those who are unwell.

It is little to ask when you think what
Could be,
So let's be patient
and take time to think of the good and how we
can inspire once we are again free.

They've saved lives,
Time on time on time
They work so hard,
They climb so high

They go through their life,
Saving so many
They go through their life,
Without hurting any

They work so hard,
They are so strong
They're really smart,
Cause they can't afford to be wrong

They push through,
At this challenging point in all our lives
And they try so hard to save them all,
They really, really thrive

How can we thank them,
For all that they have done
We really want to return the favour,
We all want to see the sun

It really is a challenge,
These doctors do their best
They put themselves,
And their lives, on hold
They never ever rest

They put their lives at risk,
To save all of us,
They try ever so hard
But you see, there's still so much to
discuss

You see,
Life, it's not breezy,
It's not all in our control,

Anything and everything you do has a
consequence,
It's really all just a game of chance,
But the scariest thing, really is, anything
and everything can all change in a second
Just, a second

So why don't we just stop,
To appreciate what we've got
And see the world around us for what it
really is
To see who is there for us when we really
need it.

NHS
Key workers
You've saved us countless times?

What is it we can do,
Do to repay you?
You work ever so hard,
We really appreciate you,
Thank you.

And though it took too long,
For our world to realise,
We know you're here when we need you,
A debt worth as much as our lives.

Thank you for all you do for us and how
you risk your life to help us

As darkness dwells in this time
An army of great nurses wait in line
to fight a virus none can endure
the amazing scientists will find a cure
All of this is very true
so all I want to say is thank you
Thank you to nurses, doctors, carers and more
who have led us through an open door
This door will lead us to a community
full of freedom, happiness, and immunity.

They daily put on their blue scrubs and masks and set off,
That emptiness of not seeing their loved ones,
One warm, tasty, mouth-watering cup of coffee as their meals.
Because of them, we can see hope.
Because of them, we can look over the rainbow to the pot of gold.
Because of them, we will be able to see our loved ones.
Because of them, we can look forward to seeing our friends.

We can only show our appreciation by clapping for them on 8pm Thursday,
We can only show our appreciation by staying home.

Bravery

I know what you're thinking
How do I take this all?
I know I work at the NHS
And yes I have to stand tall

People always praise us
They clap at their front door
This virus hurts us all
Whether that's rich or poor

My patient has coronavirus
His family pray for him at home
Praying that he'll take his step
Take his step not alone

I don't have a mask
Not any more
My neighbour is sewing one for me
But you can never be sure

I hear more coughing than speaking
People gasping for air
I hear more beeping than footsteps
It's all horribly unfair

Maybe it's time to stop being the knight
Can I take much more
But I will never put my sword down
Not in this brutal war

My job is to help people
Not to hide away
Even though there are rumours
I'll ignore the fears they say

The last thing he said to me
As he lay in his bed
I was strongly overwhelmed
And this is what he said

Pointing to a photograph
His eyes started to water

He opened his mouth
And told me about his daughter

"She was the person I loved the most
And that is all that matters
Even though my body is weak
And my voice badly battered

When I had my daughter
Love was given around
I knew I might have been lost
But I also knew I was found"

Not only I witness this
But every NHS nurse
Sometimes it's hard to bear
And the tears in his eyes make it worse

I'm lucky I have a place
With my family waiting at home
Because when I'm with them
I know I'm not alone

So if the question is what is bravery
Not having it isn't slavery
But is it: coughing, crying, sneezing, dying,
isolating at home.
Being scared all the time and knowing you're
alone?
Turns out it's all of those things and everyone
has to commit
That is the definition of bravery
And everyone has it.

Thank you

Stack shelves, stack bodies

Deliver food, deliver babies

Stop and arrest, stop cardiac arrest

Teach and protect, bleach and disinfect

Give care and assistance, keep your distance.

Overlooked and underpaid, we know now, the difference you've made.

Hope

We are all in this mess,
But that doesn't mean we should hope any less.
This is a global issue,
And to wipe away the tears we need a tissue.

I am hoping for the best,
Like I'm sure are the rest.
We all need some reassurance,
But if we hope we can make a difference.

You may feel like you can't cope,
But who are we if we don't have hope?
Stay positive!

Change this world
Just have hope
We broke it down
So we can build it up.
This is wrong
Come back along
Because together we are strong,
We are strong.

Change this world
Save this world
It is dying
Small children crying.

While you eat a treat
Others cannot eat
Animals dying out
We're to blame, I have no doubt
We need to care
Our planet is getting bare
And it's not fair!

Heroes

Heroes come in all different shapes and sizes,
Superheroes save the day but the NHS helps them on the way.
When we need help there is one number to call,
Risking their lives they come to our door.
They try to protect us as much as they can,
Their effort and patience and all their hard work is lovely to see in this difficult time.
Putting their heart and soul into their job we can't thank them enough.

For the NHS

THANK YOU ALL KEY WORKERS

Whilst we stay at home in the light,
You go to the front line to fight.

We're all safe and untouched,
Whilst you heal those in the virus' clutch.

Everyday you risk your lives,
All of this just for us to survive.

What you do isn't always easy,
And certainly never fun,
So thank you for all that you have done.

They Were There

They were there for our coughs and colds –
our shaking hands, our tired souls!
they were there when our clotted blood,
our broken bones, our cancer
almost overcame us;

They were there to make our beds, to calm our fears
to soothe our heads
They were there to build us up when we were broken down -
they were always there for us, working,
sacrificing... never making a fuss...
how can thank
you be enough?

How can thank you represent,
their love poured out, the hours they spent
working for our nation and its health;
how can thank you be enough
for the lives they've saved, for
the price they've paid...

But the rainbows that light up dark and empty streets –
the applause that floats up into a grey sky...
all those Thursdays our country has united to say
thank you, apart but together... that's a gratitude rather hard to come by!

Thank you NHS!

When the world shut down, you stayed strong,
Millions of people came to your doors,
You didn't turn one any one away.
Risking your lives for the sake of others,
Working hard, every hour, 24/7.
Feeling exhausted, frightened and tense,
Seeing the devastation, 'carry on regardless',
Rewards are few
And yet you care.
Slowly the dark clouds will drift away.
We will be left with blue skies, sunshine and rainbows
Thanks to you.

Coronavirus virus is making us all stay at home inside

Overtime as people die everyone is going to hide

Reality is not perfect

Originally we thought we were fine

Most adults drinking their wine

NHS is saving thousands of people

We never knew this virus was so lethal

At the moment hundreds are dying each day

This vaccine we have needs to find a way

Venerable people are out there

Consuming too much of the sickening air

In doubt of having symptoms call 111

Am sure he doctor can help with each 1

Really we should all pray

And keep ourselves away from the sun ray

U need to stay home

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE, SAVE LIVES

KEYWORKERS – OUR LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Oh what wonderful work the keyworkers have done;
They bent over backwards to help everyone;
The teacher's have provided us with oodles of stuff;
The trains and buses still running for us;
The Police and Fire Service still working each day;
The NHS taking shellfire each way;
England froze the supermarkets rose;
There is plenty to say but hip-hip hooray for our keyworkers working night and day!

Heroes

Thank you for carrying on and on,
Through the challenges you face.
You are saving so many lives,
The whole of our fragile human race.

Thank you for battling this toxic beast,
That's invisible to the human eye.
You're putting others before yourselves,
Your white flag will never fly.

Thank you for risking your precious lives,
We know our clapping is not enough.
You deserve the highest honour,
For standing tall against the cough.

Thank you for working day and night,
Without fear of what's in store.
Comforting families in their goodbyes,
But keeping humanity alive forever more.

She's awake in the morning,
She's awake at night,
She works on the front line,
And puts up a fight.

A superhero in disguise,
Masks, gloves and gown,
Saving the poor victims,
The saviour of her town.

The villain she battles
All day and night
Fighting her nemesis,
Until it takes flight.

As she walks into the battlefield
To her invisible enemy,
Many battles she has won,
But this one she did not succeed.

Lying in her bed,
Her friend brings her tea
Soon she'll be back
So don't you worry

We are proud,
They are brave,
We give our love
And are thankful

For it's us they save!

The NHS

The NHS

Are working harder than you

It is ever so clear as blue.

Their days are long

But they still go on

They are always here

Helping people to get strong.

The NHS

Are working harder than you

It is ever so clear as blue.

So a big thank you

to the NHS

For getting us through this

And putting themselves at risk

The NHS

Are working harder than you

It is ever so clear as blue.

Let us all applaud our heroes in blue.

Isolation

I cannot thank you more

Saving lives

On the front line

Living to help others

And caring for people at this time

Thinking how to find an antidote

Isolating us to save us all

Observing what the virus does from my home

Never forget those who lost their lives and on their own.

Doctors

Deserved of our thanks

Occupation

Clap for carers

Taking care

Overworked

Risking their health for us

Stay home, protect the NHS, save lives

NHS, you need some rest.
You've been up and going since first symptoms were showing.
But if you slacken in your pace, then we might lose the race.
Thank you for putting others before yourself,
You have shown the world that there is help.
You've put yourselves at risk,
You've worked extraordinary hours,
You really must have superhero powers.
We love Thursday nights,
When we come out to clap,
For the amazing service you have placed in our lap.
Thank you, thank you NHS,
We can't wait for you to have your rest.

We are in this together

(Red-Patients, Orange-Businesses, Yellow-Schools, Green-Shops, Blue-NHS, Indigo-Government, Violet-Children, Black-Under the scenes, White -Hope.)

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.

Red represents the mixture of blood and muck,
It will affect us, young and old.
None of us will have much luck,
Those who don't, watch their life unfold.

Orange represents those big brand signs,
All those endless hours, long.
Those big ideas, with lines crossed out,
Their dreams and plans, gone.

Yellow is the colour of school books,
Those at first young faces of glee.
But slowly turn to scared looks,
On what their new life will be.

Green is the colour of shopping bags,
All of us, crowded for food with desire.
Everything gone, even the mags,
But the people there, only some admire.

Blue represents the logo of heroes,
Saving lives, an honour, no chore.
Working way past double zeros,
Cleaning up the endless gore.

Indigo is the colour of strict ties,
The people trying to make amends.
To make our life like our normal lives,
Making the UK great again.

Violet is the colour of Crayola,
Drawing or playing ball.
Some young, some growing molars,
Some going down a long, sad fall.

Black is for those shadowy figures,
Working through all malfunctions.
The ones we often mock and snigger,
Yet they make our lives function.

White represents the hope and chance,
For no more corpses to be laid.
That one day we can sing and dance,
We will see another day.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.

While we stayed at home

While we enjoy the sunshine,
they're inside.

While we get lots of family time,
they cannot hide, from the growing threat of illness,
they have to work inside.

While we enjoy our gardens,
they're living with the stress,
the number of lives in their hands largens,
the pressure, we can only guess.

While we play games to have some fun,
they get up at the rise of the sun.

While we complain about being stuck at home,
they just pray that they won't bring the virus home.

The lives they've saved,
They've risked their own,
and never caved.
Greatness they've shown.

We thank them.

Why be a volunteer for the Key Workers

It's not for money, It's not for fame

And it's not for any personal gain

It's just for love of fellow man

It's just to lend a helping hand

It's just to give a duty for yourself

That's something you can't buy with wealth

It's not for the medal worn with pride

It's feeling that you've been a part

Of helping others far and wide

That's why you become a VOLUNTEER

The Heroes Among Us

No longer
Do we look up
To the Heroes of old.

The Pandemic
Has opened our eyes
To see the heroes among us.

We took them for granted
But now we see
What would we do without them?

Normal people
Like you and me
Are the soldiers on the Front Line
Battling a war of illness.

NHS.
You make this country proud.
And define who we are.
Thank you.

Middle school entries

Pandemic Puzzle

Pandemic confusion, Unforeseeable conclusion
Lots of the world hallucinating with apocalyptic illusions
Everybody has a part to play nobody without inclusion
As we speak the country encourages nationwide self-seclusion
So, stay at home to give your support
Essentially our houses have become our forts
Self-isolation saves devastation so stop overcrowding at the food court

This is the plan so that we can thwart, the
Attacks on us by the corona virus

You've heard that that name, it's really tired us
And you've seen how the NHS inspired us, so
This is our chance to aid their fight

Home is where we can make this all right, where
Our efforts and theirs can help save lives

Most of you haven't seen the signs, but
Everybody please read between the lines

Time

It's a funny thing, time
It's the one thing in life that you can't buy more of,
It's the one thing in life that cannot be controlled,
It's the one thing in life that we can watch but not keep
And it's the one thing in our lives that we can be certain will run out.

You can watch the seconds ticking by
The minutes
The hours
The days
The weeks
But you can't stop it
And each click of the clock is another one closer to your last

And even though your time won't be infinite,
There are people who are always trying to make it longer
They're called the NHS and they're saving someone's life as you read this.

We start as children in the womb and are brought into the world by the NHS
The as the clock spins and spins we grow into adults
Into parents
Into grandparents
And then we're back with those people who brought us into the world
Except now they're trying desperately to stop us from slipping away

So make the most of your time
Each second that you're free,
to laugh, to cry,
to wait, to try
To live, to die
Because if you waste it then what are you waiting for?
For the end of your time?

A Beacon of Hope.

Not so long ago, movement was free.

We chartered around the world, with nothing but glee.

A time of peace.

A time of light.

Where people mingled ,without thinking twice.

Once plunged into the pandemic, like a manic realm.

All contact was banned,

so we found ourselves desolate, with the absence, of our soothing palms.

A time of uncertainty.

A time of fear.

Where people recoiled, without blinking twice.

Anxiety creped in with the weight of a thousand bricks.

And dragged our hearts down, without uplift.

The invisible assailant had struck !

The cowardly menace had ducked !

Surely there could not be a glimmer of light ?

But charging in with mighty speed,

Came a sea of key workers, conducting a mighty deed.

A sliver of joy.

A sliver of hope.

Where people rejoiced, without a second thought.

Day in and day out, they challenged the invisible enemy.

Day in and day out, they displayed their profound bravery.

We honored them from the compounds of our homes.

And we praised them with every inch of our souls.

For holding the hands of our beloved....when we couldn't be in their presence.

You sacrificed yourselves for our loved ones.

So for that we are forever indebted...

To you, the life of Britain.

Our Heroes.

Our Saviors.

Thank you NHS, for being a beacon of hope.

A war we must win together

Memories of past years comfort those in fear
Nameless soldiers begged for protection; it is taken away by those spoon fed by fake news
People crave something to blame and someone to put at fault
Old young rich poor
Longing for tender touch
Vulnerable at heart
Learning that money and stockpiling cant stop this war taking love ones
Hiding behind closed doors
They grasp onto their whatsapp gossip, which is swarmed with lies
all are powerless to its mighty roar
beware beware for the consequences will outlive us all they screech
but
we as a nation, a country, a team, an army
must stand tall together, for this war is simply a fight we have to fight
follow in the footsteps of those who lead
Listen to the heroes who are fighting on the frontline
Please let this storm pass
And watch from a far...

How can I cope with COVID-19,
Staying indoors fed up and bored?
Do you look after those patients fighting for life,
Knowing their lives stand on the edge of a sword?

How can I cope with COVID-19,
Its unfair I can't just go out!
Do you hold the hand of our most vulnerable and scared,
Telling them what this is all about?

How can I cope with COVID-19,
Having to study from home?
Do you spend your day with key worker's kids,
So their not left at home all alone?

How can I cope with COVID-19,
Not seeing my mates makes me uptight!
Do you look after the elderly without going home,
Staying with them both day and night?

How can I cope with COVID-19,
Why do I have to stay in?
We're still doing everything for you, don't you know?
Like even collecting your bins.

How can I cope with COVID-19,

This lock down is no longer fun,
I'm sorry you feel that way, truly I am,
I'm grieving from losing my mum.

How can I cope with COVID-19,
You lot just don't understand!
26,000 and counting - we looked after them all,
That's why your party is banned.

So how can you cope with COVID-19,
Wanting to rebel and save face?
Start with the key workers doing everything they do,
Risking their own lives so you can stay safe.

Blue

Think not of the sea,
A deep blue
Radiating a sense of free.

Think not of the summer sky,
A source of warmth and joy
Through boring everyday life.

Think not of a deep depression,
Paralysing and overwhelming
Life-sucking in a never-ending oppression.

Think not of their eyes,
Piercing your soul
As they see through your lies.

Think instead of our brave front-line warriors
Fighting the invisible enemy.
Struggling to be victorious
Risking their lives with the troops of chemistry.
Doctors, nurses and carers too
And the least we can do is say thank you.

From the outside of these building doors,
No one can envision the grief and pain.
The public claim to support by the occasional clap and applause,
But don't think twice about labelling a day bad over some rain.

We spend millions on weapons to wage war,
Aggressions and conflicts over irrelevant purposes.
When the truth is the soldiers of the NHS are still poor.
With minimal staff, yet patients in surpluses.

How can this service look after the nations wellbeing,
Saving our lives every single day.
And in return they are seen as ordinary human beings,
When these heroes are working overtime for little pay.

Even only you and i,
Can understand a fraction of the tears
Shed from these workers hearts not eyes,
Over a fatal pandemic;
That will be remembered for years.

Thank you, NHS

What do we owe the NHS?

Without them life would be a mess,
With gentle hearts, all made of gold
They treat heart disease to simple cold,
The hands that delivered us from birth
The hands that heal and mend the earth.

Nurses and doctors so soft hearted

Trying to save our departed,
It's not for money, it's not for fame,
It's not for any personal gain
It's just for the love of a fellow man
It's just to lend a helping hand.

I do not think I will fear the day

When it's **my** turn to pass away,
If nurses and doctors with hearts so vast
Are the arms that hold me last.
Thank you, NHS, ever so much,
For the NHS's caring touch.

How can we possibly thank you

They rise majestically at the dusk of dawn
Working tirelessly throughout the morn.
Leaving their cubs at home to play,
Praying that this may be a better day.

Arriving at their workplace, anxious and alone,
Greeted by an eerie but optimistic tone.
They are our Kings,Queens, dads and mums,
Caring for unknown cubs, hoping for positive outcomes.

Like a sacrificial lamb, putting everything on the line,
Our love for you is greater than any Valentine.
Disguising their emotion within their great mane,
Applying a brave face that they are expected to obtain.

As we all sit back- helpless and afraid,
We hope our multicoloured arches may be of some aid.
Or even the roar of pride that streams around our nation,
When we stand united, far from deflation.

Our NHS are not like sheep, awaiting orders from teachers,
Instead they are lions, the bravest of all creatures.
Standing united, painted in blue,
NHS how can we possibly thank you.

Our Brave Doctors

Once upon a time today

In a vibrant place we call home, everything was far from perfect

Rotating on its never ending axis

The world continued to move at hyper-speed, like a picturesque movie scene

Just like that a villain emerged

In every country and street

In every home, possibly on every seat

It hides, unseen and unknown

It lurks in the shadows

Like a lion waiting for its next kill

The virus waits

Scourging our beloved planet

Every day hundreds fall

Every day we wail and mourn

Do we turn in the towel?

Should we give in?

Look there! Who is that emerging from the darkness?

No face, no name nor any superpower.

Gloves on hand

Face-mask on face

They lead the way

Our brave doctors, our Titans

They are here to save the day!

Upper school entries

A poem of thanks to the NHS

No wound will ever heal
that has been opened on our world,
the scars that remain will never fade,
but they remind us of what you did,
of what you saved,
of the future that you gave.

Help is too weak a word
that belongs to those who prayed but never did
the things that you did,
you did it for us and not for you
and so 'help' is a word that should be renewed
to changed,
for you changed the world
and now it's better.

Safe is not what you felt,
safe is not what you were,
safe is what we are now,
future is what we have tomorrow
because you gave your safety for ours
and you risked your future
for ours.

Thank You.

The world is changing every day
To a place which is no longer the same
We have to stay home to stay safe
But doctors and nurses are staying till late

They leave they're family with a hug and a kiss
All so that they can stop the coronavirus

HIVE

Our hive survives,
a hub of whirring and blurring
wings beating as one

every selfless mark stands proud,
the bruise no-on can cover-
stripes, black, yellow. Green. Blue.

Our hive thrives
every queen, bumble, honey and worker,
Each a vital role to play.

ChorusiNg a buzz wHich will crescendo at every Sting

Invisible Enemy

In the darkness,

Near the light,

Victory,

Is in sight,

Sea of nurses,

Immersed in the deep,

Barricades,

Light in the mist,

Ever brighter each day.

Ever growing stronger,

Never walking alone,

Ever growing stronger,

March on.

You will never walk alone.

Thank you, bin men

You roam the streets in your Hi-Viz jacket,
With your ginormous truck that makes quite the racket.
From how you bundle together, behind you, bags from the bin,
To that really loud noise the truck makes when reversing,
We are so grateful for the work you do every Tuesday
And through this hard time we would just like to say:
Thank you for your bravery and the way you work with a grin,
In a bid to keep our towns and villages moving.
You are our superheroes but without the daft cape
And you're clearly much, much cooler than any videotape.
You've helped keep our lives in a normal routine
And our homes? We're able to keep them clean,
So thank you, thank you and thank you again
To you, our amazing bin-women and bin-men!

Even though the world is a mess,
Thank God for the NHS.
They're what's keeping us afloat,
Like a ridiculously underfunded but big stable boat.
Thank you for all the doctors and nurses;
Maybe after this we'll happily open our purses,
And perhaps,
God forbid,
You'll be paid properly for what you did.

ALONE TOGETHER

We're given two twenties but we feel poor,
Something's happened, we've lost what we had before.
We all have 2 metre wide invisible wall,
normal interaction's just a memory to all.

Push and pulling forces are thrown,
a push from others, a pull from home.
For an introvert a new feeling unknown
asks: 'do I really wants to be alone?'

It's comforting conceptually so I say,
but now it feels perpetual, so- no way!
Binge watching shows reminds you what you're missing,
touching, high-fiving, hugging, kissing...

Then on the screen a notification rings,
an invitation I click, then- ping!

To be face to face again feels so unreal,
but there they are - and no push do I feel!

We talk on the net, it feels worlds apart,
just enjoying each other's company- a heart to heart.
Recent developments we discuss together,
virus testings, e homework, the weather.

Though these trying times will be over forever,
I'm just glad we can be alone together

Anthem for Heroes

Zoe Hill
Goddard - Year 13

The steady low beat is an anthem,
Played in the hospital halls.
A breath then, returned to survivors,
As hope permeates walls.

It passes from nurse to doctor,
An unspoken strength carried on,
Held in the clapping of people,
Society's spectrum of song.

The world cheers for their heroes,
The ones not found on Tv,
But working for hours without breaking,
A miracle's soft melody.

The steady low beat is an anthem,
It plays at the core of the earth,
And strengthens the hearts of our heroes,
Whose selflessness brings us all worth.