

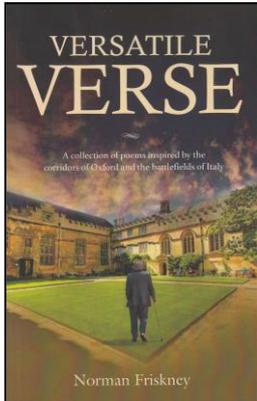
MEREO NEW BOOK: PRESS RELEASE

Moving, insightful and wryly-amusing poetry expressing the joys and sorrows of human experience

PUBLICATION DATE: 28 SEPTEMBER 2015

For the world is full of choices || Of religion, sect and class

But admission's never guaranteed || Unless They've stamped your pass. [from *PASSPORT TO PARADISE*]



VERSATILE VERSE

A collection of poems inspired by the corridors of Oxford and the battlefields of Italy

by Norman Friskney



ISBN: 978 1 909874 61 9 Paperback 34 pages RRP: £7.99 28 September 2015

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Available through: all good book shops and internet booksellers (Also available as an ebook)

Rejoice in sunshine, and when shadow falls || Remember, like the sundial's changing state

Both light and shadow each are blessings fine || To paint the profile of the soul divine. [from *THE SUNDIAL*]

Versatile Verse is a collection of poems from the pen of the retired Head Master of the prestigious Wilson's School (in Sutton). Norman Friskney (who lives in Bromley, Kent) wrote the verses over many years for his friends and family, and it was they who encouraged him to make his words available to a wider audience through this new volume of poetry. The verses reflect the author's varied life in the halls of Oxford University and on the battlefields of Italy, where he served as a young officer during World War II.

There are poems about contemporary issues (such as the poem addressed to young Jihadists); political and social dilemmas (for example those posed by the class system and education policy); young love, long-lasting love and life-long marriage (including the prospect of being parted by death); as well as poems in remembrance of friends who gave their lives in World War II.

Guilt lingers with survivors || As the years roll soft away
And on the Jesus war memorial || Are the names of those whose day
Was so short and we like Blunden || Find our tears can't drown the lie
That dulce et decorem est pro patria mori.

[from *MORE FRAGILE THAN WE KNEW*]



Sometimes amusing, sometimes heart-breaking but always thoughtful and wise, Norman Friskney's book of poetry examines so many aspects of the human experience of life, love and loss, faith and immortality that most people will find, within its pages, a poem that will speak to them personally.



About the author: Norman Friskney studied at Jesus College, Oxford until his studies were interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. He served as an officer in Italy with the Eighth Army (during which time he accidentally broke Mussolini's bed). At the end of the war he returned to his studies at Oxford before becoming a teacher and eventually becoming the Head Master of Wilson's School – a prestigious grammar school in Wallington (Sutton, Surrey) which is celebrating its 400th anniversary this autumn. Former pupils of the school include many famous names from politics and entertainment. Now in his nineties, Norman Friskney, continues to enjoy his memberships of The Royal Society of Arts and of

The Royal Geographical Society – as well as continuing to write. His inspiration comes from his musings about 'the human condition' and the emotional, social and political problems that we all face.

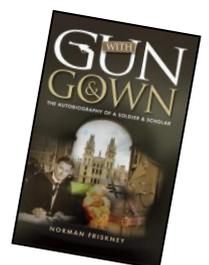
(Photos: Norman Friskney today and when he was Head Master of Wilson's School, in Wallington, Sutton).

Media opportunities: Extracts/serialisation. The author is available for interviews.

Local UK interest: Northampton, Oxford, Henley-on-Thames; Sutton (Surrey); & Bromley (Kent)

By the same author: 'With Gun & Gown: The Autobiography of a Soldier and a Scholar'

(Memoirs Publishing, 2013, paperback, RRP £12.99)



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