

6 March

Daily Poem

**BATH LITERATURE
FESTIVAL 2010**

**Sat 27 February
– Sun 7 March**

Crashing, Fighting

You're my other mother.
At the top of my family poet tree
you sit, above me,
branches bending beneath us,
groaning about how the blanket sky
never warmed us both at once,
never stopped us both reading
one night when the moon
was cotton wool covered and blind.

Shreds of my identity
compare to you uncannily
and I'm afraid,
I'm afraid that I never met you,
never looked wide eyed up at you
while you intimidated the hell out of me.
You give me a vague urge to free
myself from any room I'm in.
But I wanted you to make me
leave the room directly.

Stop moving me.

You're who I aspire to see
and am afraid to see
when I stand at the edge of the sea
looking in, hoping to read the waves
for some hint of futurity.
But I can't endure it like you did;
I too have been spat back out like a cork
and Mother, I'm glad,
because when it all gets too much
and I'm looking into the waves
feeling nothing but grey,
I pull my hood over my eyes
and retreat silently.
Back to the shelter of the caves,
back to stare at my paper face
in the mirror and seethe,
write all over it in blue-black ink.
Mother I'm afraid I'm real,
too real, I think.

***Julie Knight, Creative Writing Student at Bath Spa University.
Inspired by Sylvia Plath's 'Poppies in July'***

6 March What's on

Come along to today's events! You can buy tickets at Bath Festivals Box Office or get them on the door an hour before the event starts.

SATURDAY 6 MARCH Rome

John Gray: The Global Crisis - the Next Steps

11.15am-12.15pm, Central United Reformed Church, £7 (£6) H3

Everyone knows that we are living through a global financial crisis, but not everyone knows what, if anything, can be done about it. A first move might be to come and hear **John Gray**.

Prospect Magazine Debate: Has Western Civilisation had its Day?

1-2pm, Guildhall, £7 (£6) H4

It's said that Western Civilisation is in crisis - doomed to end like ancient Rome, giving way to the new super-powers of China and the East. Join our panel of experts as they talk about the issues.

Allan Little: 20th Century Dictators I have known

4.30-5.30pm, Guildhall, £8 (£7) H11

If you want to know what it's like to report from the frontline of a war or meet some of the world's most appalling dictators, then all you have to do is come and hear one of the most distinguished foreign correspondents of our time - **Allan Little**.

My Life: Michael Frayn

8-9pm, Guildhall, £9 (£8) H18

Michael Frayn is one of our best-loved playwrights and thinkers but he began his career as a journalist. He talks about

a life of observation with broadcaster **Sheena McDonald**.

Performance: Tom Wigglesworth: Open Return Letter to Richard Branson

8pm-9pm, Rondo, £10 (£9) H19

A cross between Sideshow Bob and Mark Thomas, join Tom as he recounts his hilarious and heartwarming true story involving the world's biggest jobsworth, his fellow passengers, and a brown paper bag from the onboard canteen.

Don't miss the last day of the Festival:

Sunday 7 March:

Prospect Magazine Debates: Are the French better than us at everything?

1-2pm, Guildhall

Tom Stuart-Smith: My Garden

2.45-3.45pm, Guildhall

My Life: Valentine Warner

8-9pm, Guildhall