

Interview clip transcript: Michael Yates and Roger Manns – the Black Horse Poets

Michael: It works well because people enjoy it, I mean this is the thing, there's nothing like an audience and you - you - you become addicted - don't you Roger?

Roger: It goes further than that with one or two people actually. I mean that historically throughout our - our time as a group, there have been people who haven't just thought, "oh, I'll dash something off for Tuesday night, go along, read it, have a laugh, have a drink, go home". There are people to whom poetry and writing actually means a lot - I mean it's an essential part of their lives and they take it very seriously. You know, they - they would feel sorely deprived if - if they didn't have it - have it there. And of course - you know, without getting too philosophical, poetry itself can be, and has been for some - for some of the people in our group who've gone through bad experiences, can be a very cathartic way of - of working your feelings out and then to be able to present them to a sympathetic audience, even more of a release, so it can be important.

Michael: Yes, with any writer's group, there is a therapy thing. Some people do come along first of all, primarily for some sort of therapy and I always say - you know, "George Orwell said 'all art is propaganda, but not all propaganda is art', well I say 'all art is therapy, but not all therapy is art'".