

Valerie Gillies

The Bellspool, River Tweed

Among the woods, the chapel is locked,
its bell hanging between heaven and earth,

bronze above the bend in the river
where the clear stream slows down.

Water lip, bell brim. The surface is stirred,
shirred by a breeze from the open hills

and the Bellspool is ringing today,
a surprise for anyone who hears it.

An echo of bronze, bright in tone,
again, the echo of the bell moving on,

the water lives and lets it go,
to sound in a whole new way.

Valerie Gillies is former Edinburgh Makar and Associate of Harvard. Trainer for Lapidus and member of sessional staff for Maggie's Centre. Currently Valerie is collaborating with photographer Rebecca Marr on a project called 'When the Grass Dances'. They have a Creative Scotland Open Fund Award for the research and development of new work in poetry and photography, to explore the resilience and variety of the grasses. At the outreach stage of the project, they will design new workshops to bring participants a sense of recovery and renewal.