



Promoting Writing in Scotland since 1969

Newsletter -June, 2013



Greetings, fellow writers, and welcome to your Bumper Newsletter

Hot from the press, the Awards for All Grant has gone through for Write Up North (well done, Marc).

Secretary Jen's Section



A special thanks to everyone who participated in the **Special General Meeting on 13 June**, both in person and by other means. With the help of all of those convened, the necessary changes to the SAW Constitution were successfully passed.

Re: **Write Up North** – this will take place on **Saturday, 19 October** at the **Inverness Town House**. It is not too early to send in your entries for the **OPEN Autumn Equinox Competitions**, some entries have already been received. The competitions are open to everyone. Categories are Short Story, adjudicated by Marc R. Sherland, Poetry will be adjudicated by Michael Malone and for the Young Writers competition Keith Charters of Strident Publishing. This is a great opportunity not to be missed. Details are available on the website. Deadline is 21 September.

The **SAW 100 Club** continues to grow as does the prize money. The first ever winner, was Jack Muir of Largs Writers. Congratulations, Jack! Let us know what you would do with the money if you won.



The next draw will be on 1 July. It's not too late to enter, as you can email Jen at jen.butler@blueyonder.co.uk. Details for an internet bank transfer are in the form for joining, as is Jen's address if you would just like to send a cheque.

Affiliation/Accommodation Secretary Lesley's Section



Affiliation for the SAW will commence throughout July this year - a little later than usual, and will continue into next year. I want to be sure to contact as many clubs and groups as possible and to introduce them to all that we have to offer in terms of the conference and the 'Write Up North' Project. I am currently reviewing the [affiliation](#) and registration forms in line with changes in venue and information required, but as payment scale is the same as last year, anyone wishing to affiliate now can do so by contacting me on: lesdes@talk21.com.'

A Plea from Lesley

This will be my last year on the Council as my plans over the next few years don't leave much room for extra curricular duties and I would like this role to be in the hands of someone with sufficient time to do it justice. I am excited about the move to the Westerwood and intend to organise the new process so that my successor has guidelines to follow as they ease themselves into the work. Below is a list of duties I am currently responsible for in the role of Affiliation/Accommodation Secretary, so if you are interested, please contact me on lesdes@talk21.com, and I will be happy to explain any aspect of it.

I became Aff./Acc. Sec. in 2009 after a year as Fiona McFadzean's assistant. I have enjoyed the job immensely and have learned a great deal over the years. I shall miss my part in the conference very much but I will still be part of the SAW as a member and will see you every March as usual.

Affiliation/Accommodation Secretary, S.A.W.- List of Duties

- 1 Collect and Maintain Club contact records and to notify them when fees are due.
- 2 Receive and acknowledge receipt of fees and pass all monies to the SAW Treasurer, keeping records of transactions.
- 3 Receive and acknowledge receipt of registrations and pass all monies to the Treasurer, keeping records of transactions.

- 4 Liaise with venue contacts ensuring that the relevant registration information is passed onto them, including special needs, and provide a list of attendees with a contact telephone number.
- 5 Reconcile any pre-payment amounts due for which the SAW is responsible (per contract).
- 6 Take charge of registration at the venue at the start of conference and keep a record of any cancellations or no-shows.
- 7 Organise all meetings with venue personnel before and after conference as necessary.
- 8 Receive competition winners and print out certificates for Award Ceremony (must be tight-lipped!)

Competitions at SAW Conference 2014

Following a very comprehensive analysis of the competitions past and present and current writing trends compiled by Barbara, our Competitions Secretary, plus the outcome of the evaluations returned, the following competitions and awards will be offered:

Novel length Competitions:

Constable Silver Stag awarded for a general novel - First 10,000 (min) to 15,000 (max) words of a General novel (All Genres except Romance or Young Adult), plus synopsis, max 2 pages.

Pitlochry Quaich awarded for a novel in a specific genre – Romance. First 10,000 (min) to 15,000 (max) words of a Romance novel, plus synopsis, max 2 pages.

TC Farries - Crystal Thistle awarded for a Young Adult Novel - First 7,000 words of a Young Adult novel, plus synopsis, max 2 pages.

Janetta Bowie Chalice awarded for a Non-fiction book. First 10,000 (min) to 15,000 (max) words of a Book of non fiction, plus synopsis, max 2 pages.

Shorter length competitions:

Livingstone Scholarship Shield & the John Severn Silver Inkwell Trophy will be awarded for a General Short Story (All types of stories: Science Fiction, Horror, Fantasy are now included in this category) - minimum 2,500 - maximum 3,000 words.

Alastair Walker Trophy will be awarded for a General article – includes humorous pieces - minimum 1,000 - maximum 1,500 words.

Dorothy Dunbar Rose Bowl awarded for a poem - Maximum 40 lines. No theme yet.

Helensburgh Shield awarded for drama – This will be awarded for a one act stage play. (Max 5 characters) About 45 minutes long.

May Marshall Trophy for a Book Review of about 350 - 500 words. This will be adjudicated by the Edinburgh Writers Group. This review has been reduced to a length of a maximum 500 words.

Under 7's Trophy – Will only be awarded when the T.C. Farries novel is not an under 7's theme.
Maximum 750 words.

Margaret McConnell Trophy to be awarded for a woman's short story - maximum 2,000 words.

The SAW Council Trophy will be awarded for flash fiction - maximum 250 words. The adjudicators will be members of the SAW Council: Marc Sherland, Jen Butler and Jacklin Murray.

The Largs Drama Shield will be given for a Five-Minute Sketch. The sketch competition winners will be informed in advance and the first three placed will perform on the Friday evening of the SAW Conference weekend. The adjudicators will be the Largs Writers' Group.

Poetry Wall – This will be judged by SAW Conference attendees. Canvassing for votes is not permitted. Voting slips will be included in a new conference welcome pack to be handed out.

In addition, Vice-President Michael has come up with the idea for a Dragon's Pen competition, for the Sunday afternoon of the conference. The contestants will have the opportunity to submit their work and pitch the idea to a panel of invited professionals. The top 12 submissions will be able to pitch their ideas to the experts and be put on the spot. The winner will receive encouragement and help from the Council on their journey to being published.

Outreach Visits

Marc and I went to Eastwood Writers earlier this month for our first Outreach visit. Here's what Marc had to say about it:

“The Visit to Eastwood Writers was a rewarding experience for both Sharon and me. Not only were we able to explain a few of the important developments taking place within the Scottish Association of Writers, but we were also able to respond to some of the excellent ideas put forward by the members.

We hope to get out to as many clubs as we can over the coming months, both those already affiliated to the Association and also those considering the merits of such engagement. This

really is an opportunity to help us shape the future of the Association so please make sure that you include a visit as part of your yearly programme.”

Already Erskine Writers, Larkfield Writers and Glasgow Writing Group have set dates for an Outreach visit, so make sure your club gets in on the action.

SAW Shop – Contact our Treasurer Jacklin pajamurs@btinternet.com

The SAW shop now has conference folders in stock. Soft padded cover, with UP trim and white stitching. They're hard wearing. Inside: An A4 notebook and pen. One of the pockets is big enough to hold a tablet and there's a pocket for a mobile phone. We're selling these at £9.50 plus £2.00 p&p for one. If you want to order more than one, contact me and I'll let you know the postage costs. Alternatively they will be on sale at the conference shop. We also have cotton bags and pens with our logo on for sale.

We hope to have the shop 'open' via our website page in the near future. In the meantime, for pictures of the folder and bag, check out our Facebook page.

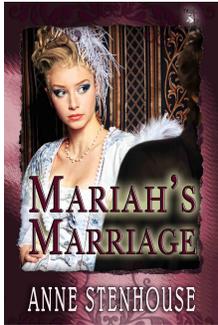
Facebook Page

We now have more than 170 Friends on our Facebook Page and it is proving to be a great place to impart information. We also had a bit of fun with a caption competition I ran recently, using a photo of everyone wrapped up against the cold in one of the last Conference sessions. The winner of the competition, with the caption 'You have to be cool to be in the SAW', was Alice Muir, who received one of the new SAW bags. There were SAW pens for the runners up.

SAW Website - There have been huge improvements to the SAW website at www.sawriters.org.uk and although the task is not yet completed there is much to see and explore. Make sure you visit the site from time to time to keep up to date with developments.

Club/Member's News

Edinburgh Writers' Club member, Anne Graham, writing as Anne Stenhouse has an e-published book, Mariah's Marriage currently on sale. The publishers, MuseItUp of Canada, have now taken Anne's second nineteenth century romance, Bella's Betrothal, and are aiming for a September launch. Copy edits are underway. Bella's Betrothal is set in Edinburgh's George Square, 1826 and features a feisty heroine and her architect suitor. Mariah's Marriage is available from most e-outlets.



If you would like any news to be included, please just drop me an email – to sharon.mail@ntlworld.com. We're planning to send out the newsletter every couple of months, and the next one will be after the Council meeting in August.

I hope that you all have a great summer.

With warmest good wishes

Sharon
Sharon Mail – Public Relations Officer