



**SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION  
OF WRITERS**

Writing in Scotland Since 1969

## **News –May, 2013**

### **Greetings, fellow writers**

Since the Conference in March, Council members have been kept very busy by our new President, the irrepressible Marc Sherland.

Our next Conference will be held at the **Westerwood Hotel and Golf Resort, Cumbernauld,**



from **Friday, 21 March to Sunday, 23 March, 2014**. It's an exciting change for us all. The facilities are terrific and we are sure that everyone will be very comfortable there.

An exciting new initiative we are launching is the OPEN Autumn Equinox Competitions - one for Prose, one for Poetry and the last a Prose Competition for Young Writers (aged 16 - 25). The Association has just been awarded a grant from Awards for All to hold a Workshop and Learning Day 'Write Up North' in Inverness, in Autumn this year. The Award ceremony for the Equinox Competition will be held during this event. Here is the Competition information.

One of the new innovations is The SAW - 100 Club, an easy to join lottery club, which as well as giving out monthly prizes will raise funds for the Association. It's a win-win situation; we pay out half of the monthly takings as prizes, whilst the other half goes towards valuable work. The cost is £12 for the year, with sign-up by 01 June, 2013. Here is a link to the form and an information sheet.

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to complete the feedback forms sent out after Erskine. Here's some of the feedback we received, compiled by our new secretary Jen, who is already very much into the swing of things:

*The response has been uniformly productive in its information and constructive in its suggestions. Our members loved the poetry wall, and suggested we continue this tradition and even expand it to include other genres. Attendees were also impressed with all information display boards in the foyer.*

*The social aspect of the conference remains a highlight for the attendees, who have commented on the useful knowledge gained from socialising, and having a relaxing weekend amongst friends and colleagues. The general organisation of the event, as well as problem solving by the committee when problems arose, was complimented by many.*

*Attendees suggested that workshops should be focused on specific writing topics. These writing topics could include specific material for beginners, presentation and information regarding publication. In addition, it was widely felt that more rehearsal time was needed for the presentation of winning sketches.*

*Ideas for SAW fundraising activities were varied and inventive. Sponsorship from relevant writing/publication and bookselling organisations were amongst these ideas. Other interesting suggestions included a silent auction, the sale of calendars and diaries in the bookshop, a dinner dance and book sales on the SAW website.*

Plans are also underway to set up the SAW Alumni Society. This will be aimed at former members of the Association who have gone on to have successful writing careers. The hope is that they will have a tangible link to SAW through the Society and will be able to pass on the benefit of their experience in a variety of ways.

We're also in the process of updating the website and putting more information on it, plus a gallery of Conference photos.

Finally, our Accommodation/Affiliation Secretary Lesley Deschner is standing down next year. Please contact her at [lesdes@talk21.com](mailto:lesdes@talk21.com) for details of the role, if you feel you might be able to step in and become involved in the work of your Council.

If you would like any news to be included in the newsletter or on the website, please just drop me an email – to [sharon.mail@ntlworld.com](mailto: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 on 8 June.

With warmest good wishes

Sharon  
Sharon Mail – Public Relations Officer