



Promoting Writing in Scotland since 1969

Newsletter -September, 2013



Standing from left, Competition Secretary Barbara Hammond, Treasurer Jacklin Murray, Public Relations Officer Sharon Mail, Secretary Jen Butler, Accommodation/Affiliation Secretary Lesley Deschner and Vice-President Michael Malone; seated, President Marc Sherland

For information on all things SAW, visit our Website at <http://www.sawriters.org.uk/>

Greetings, fellow writers

Hopefully you will all have received the **2014 Conference Schedule** by now, via your Club contacts. If not, a copy can be obtained from our Website. Please do read the Schedule carefully. If you have any issues/concerns you would like to raise, please pass them on for consideration at the next SAW Council meeting, which is being held on Sunday, 22 September.

As you will see, there are a number of changes and additions – many of them as a result of feedback received from you after this year’s Conference. We hope that you will embrace these changes, which we feel will enhance the Conference experience. Your feedback on the 2014 Conference will help us gauge their success and we will plan for the following year accordingly.

Autumn Equinox Competition The deadline for this is Saturday, 21 September, so not long now to get your entries polished up and sent to Barbara. The results will be announced at the **Write Up North** Learning Day, being held at the Inverness Town House on Saturday, 19 October. Remember, you don’t have to attend the Inverness event if you enter the Competition.

Having said that, it should be a great day out and it will be nice to meet up with writing friends in the North for a change. Anyone with a National Entitlement Card (fka Bus Pass) will be able to travel there free by bus. Many of us are thinking of travelling up on the Friday night and staying over and there is reasonable accommodation available if booked early enough.



SAW 100 Club –

Congratulations to the winners for July, August and September – Rosemary Gemmell, Fiona McFadzean and Ronnie Mail. As at the last Council meeting, 45 people had signed up, so we are already nearly half way to our first target of 100 members. We will be accepting new members until 31 December.

Affiliation – from Lesley – lesdes@talk21.com

Although affiliation is open from 1 June every year, the beginning of September seemed to be the best time for the Affiliation Drive because the Schedule was due to be released and

everybody was thinking about conference-related matters. Now that they have been sent out, early return of the completed forms would be greatly appreciated.

Over the past few months, we've had enquiries from new clubs who are interested in what the Association has to offer, partly due to the additional publicity our "Write Up North" event has afforded us. They have contacted me either through the link on the website or through another member of the Council and that's as good a way as any. If you know of any unaffiliated clubs that might be interested in joining, please let me know.

You will notice a slight change to the Affiliation Form this year. It is now double-sided A4 size, and asks for specific information for inclusion on the SAW website Club page. This information can be helpful for anyone in your area who may be looking for a writers' group to join and we could all do with new members, couldn't we?

Website

We are continuing to make changes to the website and I would welcome your feedback on them. We are planning to set up an information area for members. All Writers' Groups need somewhere to find useful information that helps set up and maintain their club. The intention of this page on the website is to provide a range of useful resources, from papers of interest such as how do you go about setting up a new writing group; sources of financial support; a standard constitution and some ideas around setting up an annual programme. This is very much your page, so ideas, papers and links to resources are welcomed.

Shop

The next change in the offing, is setting up our online Shop.

Merchandise :

SAW Lapel Badge £1:50 + postage 60p = £2.10

SAW branded pens £1:20 + postage 60p = £1:80



SAW branded canvas bags £5 + postage 1:20p = £6:20

SAW branded Conference Folder £9:50 + £2 postage

A5/A6 notebooks ranging from 50p - £4.99

Postage prices quoted are for **one item**. **If you wish to buy more than one please contact Jacklin for details.** To purchase items please contact her at pajamurs@btinternet.com.

Outreach Visits

We have started making Outreach visits to Clubs and further requests are coming in. So far we have visited Eastwood and Larkfield, Glasgow and we are scheduled to visit Edinburgh, Greenock and Erskine very soon. Some very interesting ideas are coming out of the visits and it appears that the exercise is worthwhile both for the clubs and the SAW. If you would like us to come and visit your Club, please let us know.

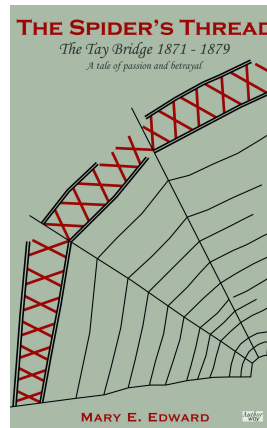
We are also investigating the possibility of skype outreach visits for the clubs further afield.

Club/Member's News

The **Greenock Writers' Club** has just presented a cheque for £250 to the Ardgowan Hospice in Greenock from the ongoing sales of its anthology. The story and photo were in the local press.

Congratulations to Greenock Writers!

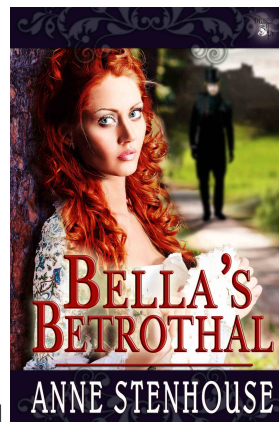
SAW Immediate Past President **Mary Edward**'s first fiction novel **A Spider's Thread Across**



the Tay has been published by AuthorWay.

It is available via Amazon UK as a Kindle version at £3.08, or a paperback at £9.99. The book is being launched in Committee Room 9, Cochrane Street, Merchant City, Glasgow on Thursday, 10 October, at 6.30pm. All welcome (there will be wine).

Edinburgh Writers' Club member, **Anne Graham**, writing as Anne Stenhouse has an e-published



nineteenth century romance, **Bella's Betrothal**

out on 20 September. Bella's Betrothal is set in Edinburgh's George Square, 1826 and features a feisty heroine and her architect suitor, laird, Charles Lindsay. The book is available from MuseItUp's online store from 20 September and from most other online retailers soon thereafter.

Our President, **Marc Sherland** has a book launch of his joint poetry book with **Catherine Walker** - 'Angels & Demons'



on Wednesday, 2 October at 6.30pm in Committee Room 9, Cochrane Street, Glasgow. All welcome - there will be an open mike.

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.

I hope that you all had a great summer and are in full creative mode.

With warmest good wishes

Sharon
Sharon Mail – Public Relations Officer