



October / November

Welcome to our October / November edition of our newsletter. The time of witches is now past and we had our very own fireworks at Write up North and Write down South. It was good meet up with old and new friends and a good time was had by all. With that said, our Council sends you their warmest of wishes.

NEWSFLASH***NEWSFLASH*****NEWSFLASH*****
NEWSFLASH***NEWSFLASH**

CONFERENCE DATES 2016 : Friday 18 - Sunday 20
March

We are pleased to offer you the 2016 Conference Prospectus which can be downloaded from our website or from the SAW facebook page. The Prospectus is full of excellent information about the competitions and the range of workshops and facilities at Westerwood Hotel and Conference Centre. Details of how to register and book your hotel place are also explained.

SUBMISSION DATES : 20th November for Novel length entries and the Scholarship. 8th January 2016 for the shorter competitions.

CONTACTS :

Fiona McFadzean is our Competition Secretary (competition@sawriters.org.uk)
Cathie Devitt is our Club Development Secretary (development@sawriters.org.uk)
Jen Butler deals with Conference registration (secretary@sawriters.org.uk)

PLEASE REMEMBER FOR YOUR MEMBERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE COMPETITIONS YOUR CLUB MUST HAVE A CURRENT AFFILIATION CERTIFICATE.

NEWSFLASH***NEWSFLASH*****NEWSFLASH*****
NEWSFLASH***NEWSFLASH**

Not to be Missed

**47th Annual
Conference**

**Westerwood Hotel
Cumbernauld**

18 – 20 March 2016



Follow Us

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**Visit our Website
www.sawriters.org.uk**

SAW 100 Club

Congratulations to all our Club 100 winners.

Catherine Lang from LiterEight took the prize in November.
Joan Fleming from Erskine Writers was victorious in October and our September champion was the one and only Evie Corkill from Largs.

Special thanks should be given to all of our members who continue to support our Saw 100 club and welcome to those who have recently joined.

For those who are not part of our 100 club, please download the form from our website today . . . go on . . . you know you want to

Could you be our lucky December winner?

Discussion Page

The Council are always looking for new ideas to keep the newsletter interesting. One suggestion put forth was for a discussion page, where members could write their thoughts on subjects such as writing, publishing, self publishing and so on.

Should you have any topic that you would like to suggest, please contact any of our Council.

We look forward to receiving and publishing your letters.

Sourcing Sponsorships and Enquiries

Should we have any members who are experienced in sourcing sponsorships and making initial enquires, the Council would be grateful for any help or advice.

We continue to look for ways and ideas to enhance our association and any advice or insight would be greatly appreciated.

Savings Club

Ask your treasurer to run a Savings Club to enable individual club members to collect the money towards attending Conference. We have created templates for this and these are downloadable from the SAW website and SAW Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Swarriters/>

Club Affiliation

Please Contact

Cathie Devitt

**Club
Development
Secretary**

development@sawriters.org.uk

Competitions

Please Contact

Fiona McFadzean

**Competition
Secretary**

competition@sawriters.org.uk

Conference Registration

Please Contact

Jen Butler

Secretary

secretary@sawriters.org.uk

Meet Vikki Gemmell



Promote Your Club

Should you wish your club to feature in future newsletters, please contact Susan McVey at publicity@sawriters.org.uk

Victoria Gemmell lives in Renfrewshire and her debut Young Adult novel *Follow Me* is out now, published by Strident Publishing Ltd. Victoria works with teenagers on a daily basis as a careers adviser.

Victoria has had shorter works published in journals such as the WordswithJAM anthology, *An Earthless Melting Pot*, The Grind Journal, The Puffin Review, FlashFlood, Word Bohemia and The Bohemyth Literary Journal, writing under the name Vikki.

About Follow Me

Follow Me is a Young Adult mystery novel, with underlying romance. It centres around 17 year old Kat Sullivan who has been devastated by the loss of her twin sister, Abby. No-one seems able to explain the circumstances surrounding her death, and as Kat searches for answers she is drawn into the mysterious and creative world of the Barn, an underground hangout modelled on the Pop Artist Andy Warhol's infamous Factory studio.



"During my undergraduate degree in Communication and Mass Media I developed a fascination with Andy Warhol. His art and the concepts behind it, inspired a lot of the themes in my book."

"I first attended the Scottish Association of Writers conference when I was about seventeen, (around the time I joined Erskine Writers). I have my Mum, Rosemary, to thank for encouraging me to start engaging with other writers and to share my work. I still remember Ian Rankin's key note speech my first year at SAW, (I think this was when he was just on the cusp of becoming massive), and being so inspired by spending a weekend with such enthusiastic and encouraging writers."

"It took a good few years for me to build up the confidence to start entering any of the SAW competitions. The crits and encouragement I received from writers such as Chris Longmuir and Maggie Craig really meant a lot when I was just starting out (and from Alex Gray and Jacklin Murray in Erskine Writers)."



Check Out

Federation of Writers at

<http://www.writersfederation.org.uk/>

“One of the most exciting moments was winning the TC Farries Trophy for my Young Adult novel, Follow Me, back in 2011 – a big thanks to Janet MacKay for her adjudication and for seeing the potential in my book.”

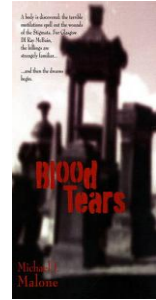
“To anyone reading this who might be debating about going along to SAW for the first time – do it! Some of my best memories have been formed here.”

Follow Victoria

Author Website: www.victoriagemmell.com

Twitter: @VikkiGemmell

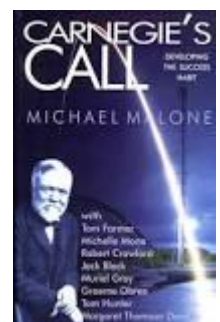
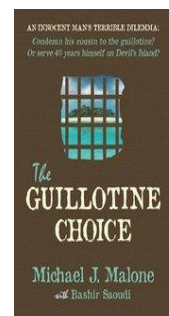
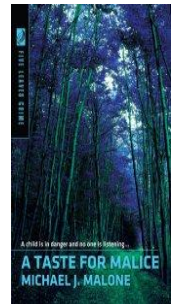
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/victoriagemmellauthor>



Hand in Hand for Syria

Hand in Hand for Syria was set up soon after the conflict in Syria commenced back in 2011. It was one of the first organisations to organise humanitarian aid into Syria and to date, remain at the forefront of emergency aid. Jacklin kindly forwarded a donation of £75.00 on behalf of the Scottish Association of Writers.

You can find out more about Hand in Hand for Syria at <http://www.handinhandforsyria.org.uk/about-us/#sthash.F8ZXMpQs.dpbs>



Write up North



What a wonderful event Write up North proved to be with Inverness Provost, Helen Carmichael, presenting the awards, Olive Muir and family donating a new trophy and as usual the food was excellent.

It was an event crammed full of learning opportunities. Mentioned in the evaluations were the high standard of the Workshops presented by Anne Connolly, Anne Downie, Marc Sherland and Linda Gillard, who was also commended for her excellent Keynote Speech.

All of those who filled in evaluations stated that they would return to a future event organised by the Association and most were looking forward to attending the forthcoming Conference

Congratulations to all our worth winners:

Short Story Competition

1st Place - My Struggle with the Robo-curtains of Doom - David McVey

2nd Place - A Letter Home - Margaret Woodward

3rd Place - The Wee Stowpie - Olga Wojtas

Highly Commended - Welcome to your Gory Bed by Barbara Stevenson

Commended - The Kilt by Lesley Holligan

Donations

Should you wish to make a donation, please download our SAW Donation Form, complete and forward along with your contribution to our valued and wonderful treasurer, Jacklin Murray. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Promote Your Club

Should you wish your club to feature in future newsletters, please contact Susan McVey at publicity@sawriters.org.uk

Poetry Competition

1st Place - Ciocharan (Suckling) - Marcas Mac an Tuairneir

2nd Place - Alba N-ova - M T Kiely

3rd Place - Grinnell (Grit) - Marcas Mac an Tuairneir

Highly Commended - Or-ubhal (Orange) - Marcas Mac an Tuairneir

Commended - The Mod - Jeni Hamilton



Reminder

**Deadline for
Conference
Novel length
entries and the
Scholarship –**

**20th November
2016**

Reminder

**Deadline for
Conference
shorter
competitions -**

**8th January
2016**

Reminder

**Download your
prospectus and
register for the
conference –**

TODAY



Write down South



Write down South was a cosy affair and again, a special thanks to all our members for their support in attending and for taking part.

Michael Malone's keynote speech will have dispersed any phobias that attendees may have had and the workshops were packed full of learning and fun. Marc, Michael and Jen's inspiring instructions cajoled and teased the very best from our creative minds.

With plenty of refreshments, shortbread and a fantastic lunch, we could not fail to be satisfied. Evaluations of the day proved that our Write down South was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

Congratulations to our winners:

The Guillotine Choice

Please sign the petition to help clear Bashir's fathers name at www.change.org



Short Story Competition

1st Place - To Whom it May Concern - Linda Brown

2nd Place - Wee Dot's First Halloween - Jack Muir

3rd Place - Davey Plays to the Crowd - Lorna Fraser

Highly Commended - Sent to Helensburgh - Rose Oliver

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publicity@sawriters.org.uk

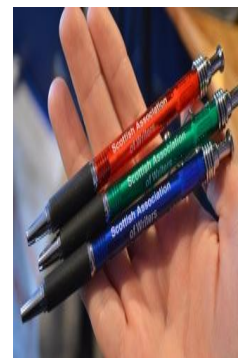
Poetry Competition

1st Place - Up in the Attic - M T Kielty

2nd Place - No Psychic Need - Greta Yorke

3rd Place - War Correspondent - Kriss Nichol





The 47th Annual Conference



The time is now upon us to start planning for our 47th Annual Conference in the wonderful Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld from the 18th to the 20th March 2016.

It is always good to meet up with like-minded, old and new friends, in these wonderful surroundings.

The prospectus can be downloaded from our website, if you have not already done so, and I am sure you will agree that once again, we have an action packed programme to entice you all.

Crime writer Caro Ramsay, our keynote speaker, along with an excellent array of adjudicators is only one reason why this amazing event should be pride of place in your writing diary.

Many of you will be polishing off your masterpieces to submit to Fiona McFadzean who is waiting eagerly on their arrival. **Please remember the closing date for book length competitions and the Scholarship is Friday the 20th November.** Remember to read the instructions and should there be any issues that are not clear, please do not hesitate to contact one of our Council members. We are always here to help.

Registration fees can be paid online by bacs:

The Account name: Scottish Association of Writers

Account number – 50401535

Sort code – 82 20 00

Reference – SAW-ConReg

The registration form can also be found towards the back of your prospectus.

For those who attended the talent night last year, you will be pleased to know that this is back by popular demand. Come along and sing a song, read some poetry or tell some jokes.

With our many competitions, excellent workshops and a variety of entertainment, this is certainly a weekend not to be missed.



As usual, you will be able to purchase items from our SAW shop. Should there be any items that you would be interested in buying, but we do not seem to sell, please have a word with Jacklin. We are always looking for new ideas and would like to improve the service that our shop provides.

Remember to look out your 'glad rags' for the Gala Dinner which always proves to be a success, with good food, excellent company and once again a fabulous keynote speaker.

We are grateful for all the support that you give to ensure the success of our annual conference. Again, we would be grateful for any donations of raffle prizes. Raffle tickets will be on sale from Friday until Sunday morning and I am sure members of the council will be chasing you to buy an assortment of colours and numbers.

Another big hit is our poetry wall. Don't forget to pen your poem and place it on the board when you arrive.

We are never disappointed with the showing of the three to five minute sketches. Do we have any budding actors or actresses this year? Only time will tell.

There is a variety of excellent workshops again this year hosted by our adjudicators and keynote speaker. As workshops cannot be over-subscribed we advise that you place your name on the sign-up sheet for the one of your choice as soon as possible in order that there is no disappointment.

Guidance for hotel bookings and any special dietary needs can be found in the prospectus but again, if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to let the Council know.

If there is too much action, you can always find a moment to have a quiet drink at the bar or cool down with a swim in the pool. There is never a dull moment at our Annual Conference.



SHOP

Please visit our SAW shop. We hold a range of shop items available for purchase all year round, many of which are branded with our SAW logo.

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Ayr Writers' Club - Contribute to Weekly Column in Local Paper

From the beginning of the new session from September 2015, Ayr Writers' Club (AWC) have been weekly contributors to a local newspaper, 'Ayr Advertiser'.

The opportunity for AWC members to write their own column came from the newspaper's Editor, Caroline Paterson in response to contact from Fiona Atchison AWC Media Liaison on promoting the club's new programme.

Caroline wrote "Would you guys be interested in doing a regular feature for the paper? We would like to run some community content from clubs within the area."

Needless to say members of AWC jumped at the chance. The column entitled 'The Write Stuff' covers a quarter, to half page with photo and byline.

It has provided novice members the opportunity to become published and experienced members, a chance for self-promotion or reflection on club workshops and speakers. The column, under 'Community News and Views' can be accessed through the on-line edition link below at:

<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?pbid=d1da2808-ded2-48ea-a96b-b0e31873aae7>

Ayr Writers Club is blessed with talent and are very proud of their members and the success they share.

Two members of the Club were successful in this year's SAW 2015 'Write Down South' competitions. Linda Brown came first in the Short Story competition, theme of 'Disguise' judged by Michael Malone, who was also the events speaker.

Linda's story was entitled 'To Whom It May Concern'. Greta Yorke received second place in the poetry competition with her poem entitled, 'No Psychic Need'.

A third member of Ayr Writers' Club, Barbara Stevenson received a Highly Commended for her short story entered in 'Write Up North



Linda and Greta



Join Us

Join and chat with us on facebook.

www.facebook.com/groups/Sawriters/

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Other News

Marc is interested in developing a 'members' section on the SAW Website, probably on the Writers' Ink page. Initially this would simply be a listing of Member's websites and Blogs, but as time goes on it could be expanded to include, biogs, adverts and any relevant information that you feel would be appropriate.

If any of you have photographs from Conference which we can put on the website, please email them to president@sawriters.org.uk

It is Marc's intention is to create a short montage of photographs from Conference as a gallery of changing images.

Standing Orders

Can members who pay their 100 Club by Standing Order please check that they have changed their Standing Order to the SAW account at the Clydesdale Bank. Account number - 50401535. Sort Code 82-20-00.

Many Thanks

Jacklin

Finally

I hope you are now busy working on your submission for the Conference and I hope like me, you are enthused and excited.

I am especially looking forward to catching up with old friends.

It has been a pleasure once again to bring this newsletter to you and should you wish to promote your club, a club member or simply showcase a piece of writing, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Until next time.

Kind regards

Susan
Publicity Officer



SAW 100 Club

The more members we have, the bigger the prizes!

Download your membership form today

SAW Hall of Fame

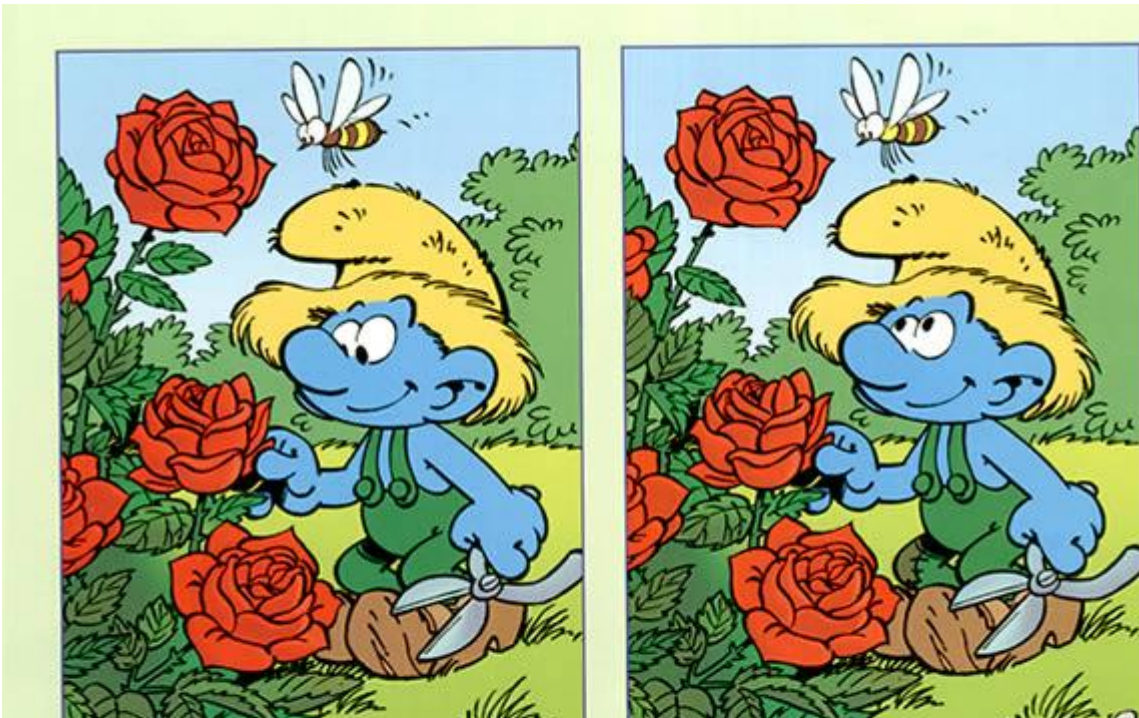
An opportunity to ensure the expertise of former Scottish Association of Writers' Council Members and Authors is not lost to the Association once they leave post or become successful.

Lets Have Fun

Riddle me This

1. What two things can you never eat for breakfast?
2. What has to be broken before you can use it?
3. What goes up but does not come back down?
4. I build bridges of silver and crowns of gold. Who am I?
5. I am very easy to get into, but it is hard to get out of me. What am I?
6. I supply the facts, but you supply the thoughts. I am also used to describe realistic droughts. My inhabitants are abstract as their places – I also provide details of words and faces. I hold details in a complex form and may cause your mind to conjure up a storm. What am I?

Spot the Difference



SAW Newsletter Advertising Rates 2014

	SAW MEMBERSHIP RATES		NON-MEMBERSHIP RATES	
	BLACK & WHITE	COLOUR	BLACK & WHITE	COLOUR
FULL PAGE	75.00	120.00	120.00	150.00
HALF PAGE	50.00	75.00	75.00	100.00
QUARTER PAGE	37.50	50.00	50.00	75.00
EIGHTH PAGE	20.00	35.00	35.00	50.00

To advertise in our newsletter please contact:

Susan McVey (Publicity Officer)
3 Moss Haw
Moscow
KA4 8PU

Tel: 07739969201

Email: publicity@sawriters.org.uk

Advertisement Info:

All artwork image resolution to be at least 150dpi, supplied either as eps, pdf or jpeg preferably. Microsoft Word and Publisher may be accepted but not always useable. All images to be supplied as jpegs.

Discounts available for advertisement block-bookings in more than one issue of the newsletter