



**March 2016**

Welcome to our March edition of our newsletter and our Council sends their warmest wishes to all of you for 2016. Let's hope this is a year where we will see many more of our friends and members succeed in their writing ambitions and hope we can celebrate several success stories.

### **47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

Our 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is almost upon us but we still have room for day delegates who might wish to attend. For those interested we have devised a form to make booking easier and we would be delighted to see as many club members attend as possible. Should you wish to discuss attending as a day delegate and have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of our council members.

We would also remind those attending to bring only one book for the book stall and any donation of raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated.

As usual, the Gala dinner will prove to be a spectacular evening and we look forward to hearing from our talented members wishing to participate in the talent show. Remember and do a little swatting as our quiz will test the greatest of minds among us.

A copy of the minutes from our last AGM has also been distributed to your club for perusal. We would ask that if possible you bring a copy with you for reference for the coming AGM meeting.

Our Council looks forward to sharing a fun packed weekend of learning and fun. We endeavour to bring you once again a full programme where there is something for everyone.

Congratulations to Barbara Stevenson of Ayr Writers' club in winning the 2016 SAW Scholarship.

### **SAW 100 Club**

Congratulations to Catherine Lang, our first winner 100 club winner in 2016.

March and April draws will take place during the Annual Conference Weekend

**Not to be Missed**

**47<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Conference**

**Westerwood Hotel  
Cumbernauld**

**18 – 20 March 2016**



**Is Your Club Sporting  
the SAW Affiliation  
Shield?**

**Visit Us**

**Visit our Website**

**[www.sawriters.org.uk](http://www.sawriters.org.uk)**



# Shop Easy and raise funds for SAW



Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Scottish Association of Writers?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join.

Head to

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/scottishassocwriters/>  
and sign up for free.

2. Shop.

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

3. Raise.

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Scottish Association of Writers will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

## Club Affiliation

**Please Contact**

**Cathie Devitt**

**Club  
Development  
Secretary**

[development@sawriters.org.uk](mailto:development@sawriters.org.uk)

## Competitions

**Please Contact**

**Fiona McFadzean**

**Competition  
Secretary**

[competition@sawriters.org.uk](mailto:competition@sawriters.org.uk)

## Conference Registration

**Please Contact**

**Jen Butler**

**Secretary**

[secretary@sawriters.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sawriters.org.uk)



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**Promote Your  
Club**

Should you wish  
your club to  
feature in future  
newsletters,  
please contact  
Susan McVey at  
[publicity@sawriters.org.uk](mailto:publicity@sawriters.org.uk)

**Don't forget to book  
your place for a fantastic  
weekend of  
comradeship, learning  
and fun.**

**Keynote Speaker  
Caro Ramsay**



**Excellent Workshops**

**Competitions**

**Bookshop**

**Social Meet-up**

**Check Out**

**Federation of  
Writers at**

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

**Conference Raffle**

**Conference Shop**

**Poetry Wall**

**Poetry Penthouse**

**Talent Night**



**Information on our special guests as follows:**

## Caro Ramsay

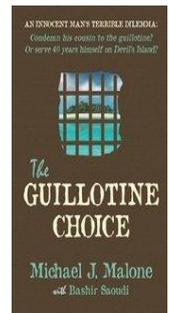
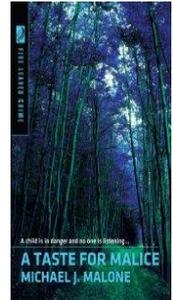
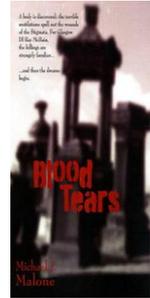


Glasgow born Caro is an osteopath by day, a crime writer by night. Her first novel 'Absolution', was short listed for the New Blood Dagger, and her second, 'Singing To The Dead' was long listed for the Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year.

She is now working on book eight of her acclaimed Anderson and Costello series and tinkling with a standalone thriller.

She also blogs on 'Murder is Everywhere', representing Scotland on Fridays. Her topics have included 'Finding Nessie, Haggis Farming and Who did what to who at Culloden'.

After editing the 'Killer Cookbook' for the Million For a Morgue Campaign, she was honoured by Dundee University by having an embalming tank named after her.



## Jenny Brown

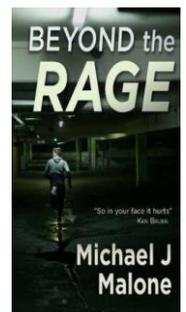


Jenny Brown established Jenny Brown Associates in 2012 and, with her four associates, the agency represents 200 writers of fiction, crime writing, literary non-fiction including memoir, sports writing and children's writing.

She was previously first Director of Edinburgh International Book Festival presenter of book programmes for Scottish Television, and Literature Director of the Scottish Arts Council.

She is chair of Bloody Scotland and is on the board of the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

[www.jennybrownassociates.com](http://www.jennybrownassociates.com)



## Keith Charters



**Keith Charters** is founder and MD of [Strident Publishing](#), which has several award-winning titles to its name and has mostly published children's, teen, YA and adult fiction to date, including a former winner of the TC Farries Award, Victoria Gemmell's [Follow Me](#).

He chairs [Tidelines Book Festival](#), sits on the board of [Publishing Scotland](#) and is an adviser to small businesses in the creative sector in his role as Industry Advisor for Publishing & Literature at [Cultural Enterprise Office](#).

Keith is also an [author](#) in his own right. He's penned the [Lee comedy adventure novels](#), including the chart-topping *Lee and the Consul Mutants*. The series appeals to ages 9+ (including early teens), boys and girls alike. Keith tries to squeeze in as many visits to schools and libraries as he still can, where he shares his stories in what he calls 'stand-up literature' sessions – laughs based around books.

## Allan Guthrie



Allan Guthrie was born in Kirkwall, Orkney but has lived in Edinburgh for most of his adult life.

He's the author of five novels and three novellas, including *Kiss Her Goodbye*, which is one of a handful of Scottish crime novels to be nominated for an Edgar award in the US, and *Two-Way Split*, which won the UK's Theakston's Crime Novel of the Year.

His first self-published book, *Bye Bye Baby*, was a Kindle top ten bestseller. Since 2005, he's had his own client list at Jenny Brown Associates, the largest UK agency outside of London.

Two years ago, he co-founded the publishing company Blasted Heath, the first digital-only member of Publishing Scotland, and has published almost 60 new works by 13 different authors.

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### 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.

### Join Us

Join and chat with us on facebook.

[www.facebook.com/groups/Sawriters/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Sawriters/)



## Linda Strachan



Linda Strachan is the award winning author of over 60 books. She writes for all ages from gritty crime novels for young adults, including the award winning *Spider*, to her best selling *Hamish McHaggis* series of picture books, Her book *Writing for Children* has encouraged many aspiring and newly published children's writers.

An inspirational speaker Linda has appeared at literary events, festivals and schools all over the UK and internationally, including a tour of schools with

the New Zealand Book Council. Linda is a Patron of Reading and the current Chair of the Society of Authors in Scotland.

## Helen Forbes



Helen Forbes is an author and a lawyer in her hometown of Inverness. She writes fiction, and has had short stories published online, and in *Freelance Market News*, *Global Shorts Anthology*, and *Northwords Now*.

Her stories have been placed and commended in many competitions, and she was the winner of SAW's general short story competition last year, with *The Curse of Naples*.

Her debut crime novel *In the Shadow of the Hill*, set in Inverness and Harris, was published in 2014. She is currently working on a second crime novel.

Helen has also written historical and contemporary fiction, and she is currently seeking representation for a novel set in 18<sup>th</sup> century St Kilda.

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**Join Us**

**Join and chat with us on facebook.**

**[www.facebook.com/groups/Sawriters/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Sawriters/)**

**Reminder**

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

**TODAY**



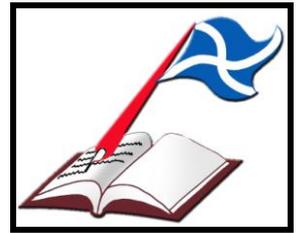
## Chris Longmuir



Chris Longmuir lives in Scotland. She worked in criminal services, mental health and child care, as a social worker, before retiring to concentrate on her writing career.

Chris was initially a traditionally published author who became hybrid when she started publishing ebooks independently in 2011, following which she expanded into paperback publishing in 2013. She has since reclaimed her publishing rights, and with the reversion of the rights to Dead Wood in 2014, she is now completely indie, and wouldn't have it any other way. Up to the present she has published four crime novels, a historical saga, and a nonfiction reference book. Her first novel, Dead Wood, won the Dundee International Book Prize in 2009, and was published by Polygon. This novel is now book two of the Dundee Crime Series, with the popular DS Bill Murphy. Her latest novel starts a new historical crime series, featuring Kirsty Campbell, and this book won the SAW, Barbara Hammond Award (2015) for the best self-published book. Crime Fiction and the Indie Contribution, is a nonfiction guide to indie publishing in the crime genre.

Chris is a member of the Society of Authors, the Crime Writers Association and the Scottish Association of Writers. She designed her own website and confesses to being a techno-geek who builds computers in her spare time.



### The Guillotine Choice

Please sign the petition to help clear Bashir's fathers name at [www.change.org](http://www.change.org)



## Douglas Skelton



Douglas Skelton is the author of 11 non-fiction titles and three fiction.

His non-fiction included true crime compendiums, one campaigning piece on a miscarriage of justice, the story of Edinburgh's Tollbooth and the biography of a forgotten Scottish hero. He has also told the hidden history of Glasgow's life of crime.

He's been a civil servant, bank clerk, shelf stacker, taxi driver (for two days) and a wine waiter (for two hours). He drifted into journalism and eventually edited a weekly newspaper for 17 years. He now writes fiction full-time.



# Alanna Knight

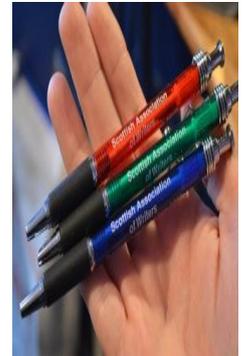


ALANNA KNIGHT MBE is a Founder Member and Honorary President of the Scottish Association of Writers and the Edinburgh Writers' Club.

First published in 1969, a vast range of over seventy books covers fiction and non-fiction including works on R L Stevenson, true crime and plays.

Member of the Society of Authors and Crime Writers' Association, her current historical crime series feature Inspector Faro and Rose McQuinn.

Many her early titles now out of print are available as e-books, including the popular 'So You Want to Write: 101 Golden Rules for Successful Fiction'. Her MBE is for services to literature.



# Kate Blackadder



Kate Blackadder has had over forty stories published in *Woman's Weekly*, *The People's Friend*, *The Weekly News*, *Woman's Day* (Australia) and *That's Life Fiction Special* (Australia) and elsewhere, and two serials in the *PF*: *The Family at Farrshore* and *The Ferryboat* (now available as large-print books in libraries).

She won the Muriel Spark Short Story Award (judged by Maggie O'Farrell) and was long-listed for the Jane Austen Short Story Award. She has adjudicated several SAW Club competitions and has been guest author at *People's Friend* story-writing workshops.



## Note to Day Delegates

Please note that day delegates can contact Jen to book their seminars/workshops in advance

[secretary@sawriters.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sawriters.org.uk)



## **Competition**

Alexander McCall Smith is again the Chief Judge for the 2016 Scottish Arts Club Short Story Competition. Deadline 31 March 2016

First prize £800 plus at least 2 runner-up prizes of £100 each. Stories can be on any subject up to 1,500 words and is open to all writers over 16 years. Read more at <http://www.scottishartsclub.co.uk/shortstory2016.html>



## **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](mailto: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**

Our Council has worked extremely hard to bring the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to you with innovative ideas and a desire to please you all. Before I joined the council I had no idea the element of planning and time spent on making our conference weekend the best that it could possibly be.

It has been a learning curve and a pleasure to work with them and I would like to give them special thanks for all their input and dedication.

They, like you are a remarkable bunch and it has been a pleasure working with you all.

I look forward to raising a glass of good cheer and toasting our 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

Kind regards

Susan  
**Publicity Officer**



### **SAW 100 Club**

**The more members  
we have, the bigger  
the prizes!**

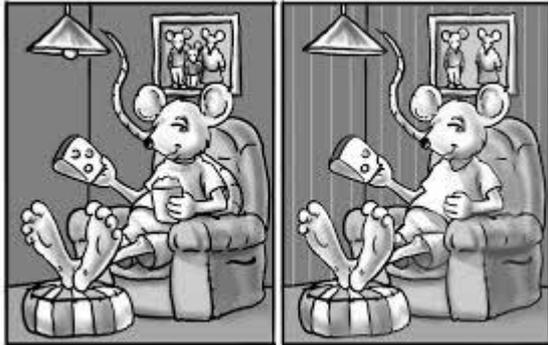
**Download your  
membership form  
today**

### **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

Spot the Difference



Conundrum

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	SAW MEMBERSHIP RATES		NON-MEMBERSHIP RATES	
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Advertisement Info:

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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

