



Newsletter -November, 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!

What a good time those of us fortunate to be able to attend Write Up North in Inverness last month had.



The only real downside was that the heating wasn't working in the fabulous setting for the event, the Town House. Yes, the SAW heating gremlins had struck again and yes, like troopers we all just got on with it. I have suggested to Jacklin, our Treasurer, that we have a stock of hot water bottles, complete with cuddly covers with SAW logo, in our Shop... just in case. However, I'm sure it will be more than the welcome that will be warm at the Westerwood Hotel next March and already the Council is considering a further jaunt to the north for 'Write Up North Too' in autumn next year.

You can read a report on the event at http://www.sawriters.org.uk/files/SAW_reflections.pdf and there's some more information and photos of the winners present on the SAW website Competitions page.

Here are the competition results:

Adjudication of Poetry - Michael Malone

Michael praised the standard reached by the poets who entered the competition and revealed the results as follows :

1st award	Mora MacLean - Glasgow - The Sound of Sollas
2nd place	G B Ballantyne - Argyll - The River in Summer
3rd place	Alexander Hamilton -Argyll - Late Winter
Highly commended	Mora MacLean - Glasgow - Tree Dance
commended	Alexander Hamilton -Argyll - Morning Moon
commended	C M Walker - Glasgow - Show and Tell
commended	Patsy Dyer - Argyll - Cowslip Wine

Adjudication of Short Story Competition - Keith Charters

Keith said he was highly impressed with the stories he read in the short leet and praised the entrants.

1st award	Barbara Stevenson - Preswick - Zuri Mtu
2nd place	Vicky MacKenzie - Fife - The Guddle
3rd place	Helen Welsh - Fife - Natural and Unnatural Worlds
commended	M T Keilty - Glasgow - The Puddockstane
commended	Margaret Woodward - Moray - The Mists of Loch Duich
commended	Sarah Hodgetts - Herts - The Otter Pup

Unfortunately, there were no entries for the Young Writers' Competition.

CONFERENCE, 2014

The **deadline** for the Novel categories and the Scholarship competition - the category is the General Short Story (2,500 - 3,000 words) is **Friday, 29 November**. Barbara has already received some entries and early submissions are welcome.

Booking for the Conference is underway and there has already been a good response. Please send your Registration forms and £30 non-returnable booking fee to our Accommodation Secretary Lesley Deschner. When you have received your registration confirmation from her, contact the

Westerwood Hotel and ask to speak to Louise. Please see the Booking form and website News Page for full details.



SAW 100 Club -

Congratulations to the winners for October and November –Saskia Tepe and Elizabeth McTaggart. We now have more than 50 members and heading nicely towards our first target of 100 members. We will be accepting new members until 31 December and reopening for prospective 2014/15 membership in March.

AFFILIATION – Lesley – lesdes@talk21.com

Lesley reports that we already have 23 Clubs affiliated, which is a higher figure than usual at this time. They include new Clubs – West Lothian Writers, Aberdeen Writers’ Circle, Forres For Words Writing Group and the Scottish Arts Club Writers’ Group (Edinburgh-based). Welcome to the SAW family!

If you know of any unaffiliated clubs that might be interested in joining, please let me know. Also, as I am stepping down in March, **if you are interested in becoming Accommodation/Affiliation Secretary**, please contact me for details.

Can Clubs still to re-affiliate, please do so as soon as possible.

WEBSITE

Marc has been absolutely buzzing with ideas for the website and has taken over the work on this for the present (which is much appreciated!). Amongst the additions, are a new Resources Page with lots of helpful information on setting up new writing groups and on Raising Funding and Resources (many thanks to Jean McLennan for her help with this). Marc is still looking for good ideas for items to add to the resource page : articles, pointers to urls, good advice, ideas for writers, etc, so please get in touch with him.

Our **Online Shop** is now up and running and you can order all manner of SAW/writing-related goodies from there. The SAW items were particularly popular at the stall set up by our Treasurer Jacklin and her husband Pat at Write up North.

Donations - There is even a donations form, should you win the lottery (or just have a spare few quid) and fancy giving the SAW a share of your winnings.

Plans are also ongoing to refresh the appearance of the site and I recommend keeping an eye on it.

OUTREACH VISITS

We have been enjoying Outreach visits to member Clubs and further requests are coming in. So far we have visited Eastwood and Larkfield, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock and Erskine and we are scheduled to visit Lemon Tree Writers (Aberdeen) and Perthshire soon and are arranging a visit to Caithness. 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.

SAW ALUMNI SOCIETY

The constitution of the Alumni Society has now been signed by Alanna Knight and Robin Lloyd Jones and the group has therefore come into existence. A Membership form can be found on the website, should you or anyone you know wish to apply to join.

CLUB/MEMBERS NEWS

Pen Pals BIG event takes place on Thursday, 7 November, at 6.30pm at the Dalziel St Andrews Church, Pollock Street, Motherwell. We have organised, with the support of North Lanarkshire Council, a writing competition for three High Schools. This has been ongoing since August with over 100 entries in four sections (Short Story/Flash Fiction/Poetry and a Theme story).

Sophie McKenzie (new book 'Split Second') is judging the Short Story and has personally signed four copies of her new novel as part of the prizes. Silvie Taylor well known Book Reviewer and Author (and former SAW President) is coming to judge the Theme Story (Creepy House) and two Head Teachers of English are judging Flash Fiction and Poetry.

Among our guests are Andrew Sutherland, Executive Director of Education & Leisure, Ian Livingston, Chairman Supercounty 2013 and John Scott, Executive Director of NLC. We have 40 winning pupils, along with parents, relatives and friend, joining the above guests and School Rectors and teachers. Prize money of £400 will be divided in each section (Winner/Runner up/Highly Commended and Commended)

This is our first pilot scheme and fingers crossed it will be very successful!

We are a group of 12, so a big undertaking but we have all enjoyed preparing for this. Anyone is welcome to attend on the 7th.

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Perthshire Writers are enjoying a well attended session with a challenging and interesting syllabus. On the 1 October we had a delightful guest in Christine Findlay, author of The Colonel's Collection series of childrens' books. Christine spoke to us about her experiences of self-publishing her books, imparting useful tips and guidance. On 15 October we welcomed members of the Falkirk Writers Circle for our annual get-together, and had a hilarious evening sharing short sketches on the topic 'trouble'.

We are looking forward to welcoming Sheila Templeton on the 5 November, when she will deliver her adjudication on our poetry competition, as well as

talking to us about her writing experiences. We will end the season on a jolly note, when some of the SAW council members join us at our meeting on 17 December.

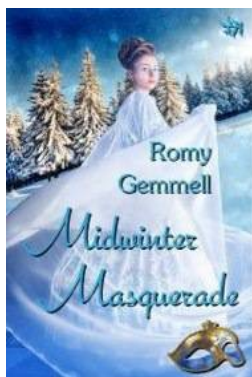
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Alex Gray's next book, ***The Bird That Did Not Sing***, will be launched on March 13, 2014 in Waterstones Sauchiehall St. This is book 11 in the Lorimer series and is set against the backdrop of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. All welcome to attend this event next year.

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Rosemary Gemmell's new full length historical romance, ***Midwinter Masquerade*** by Romy Gemmell, is now published by Tirgearr in Ireland and is available on Amazon kindle and in all e-formats through the publisher:

http://www.tirgearrpublishing.com/authors/Gemmell_Romy/midwinter-masquerade.htm

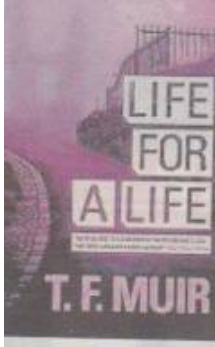


Rosemary Gemmell

<http://ros-readingandwriting.blogspot.com>
www.rosemarygemmell.com

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Frank Muir's latest crime thriller, ***A Life for a Life***, has now been released. Reviewing it in the Daily Record, Shari Low said: "T F Muir doesn't do subtlety. However, he does do bloody but brilliant thrillers."



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Uuganaa Ramsay, the Janetta Bowie Chalice for a non-fiction book winner. 2012, has her first book, ***Mongol*** published in January, 2014.

Uuganaa is a Mongol living in Britain, far from the world she grew up in: as a nomadic herder she lived in a yurt, eating marmot meat, distilling vodka from goat's yoghurt and learning about Comrade Lenin. When her new-born son Billy is diagnosed with Down's Syndrome, she finds herself facing bigotry and taboo as well as heartbreak.

In this powerful memoir, Uuganaa skillfully interweaves the extraordinary story of her own childhood in Mongolia with the sadly short life of Billy, who becomes a symbol of union and disunion, cultures and complexity, stigma and superstition - and inspires Uuganaa to challenge prejudice. ***Mongol*** is the touching story of one woman's transformation from outsider to fearless champion of love, respect and tolerance. It's a moving tribute by a remarkable woman to her beloved baby son, testifying to his lasting impact on a sometimes imperfect world.

Uuganaa has been interviewed by the Sunday Express and Daily Record.

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With warmest (in every sense) good wishes

Sharon
Sharon Mail – Public Relations Officer