



Newsletter -January, 2014



Standing from left, Competition Secretary Barbara Hammond, Treasurer Jacklin Murray, Publicity 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**

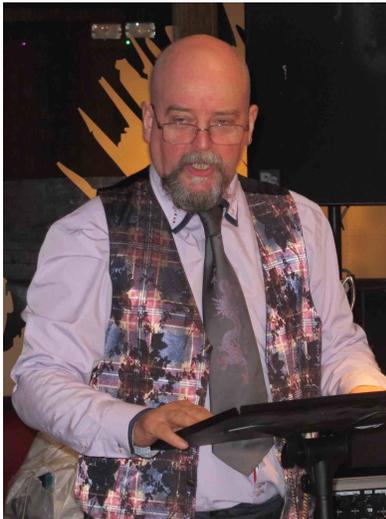
<http://www.sawriters.org.uk/>

Greetings, fellow writers!

Congratulations to our Honorary President, **Alanna Knight**, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List, for services to Literature.



From Marc, our President:



"Since it was formed in 1969, the Scottish Association of Writers has promoted creative writing in a variety of ways. The Association Council members realised that we should reach more people, so last autumn we offered the event, 'Write Up North' funded by Awards for All, in Inverness. This was popular and enjoyable and has prompted us to plan 'Write Down South' in Dumfries in June 2014. The format will be a Learning Day with three competitions and opportunities to engage with experts, whilst networking.

The SAW Outreach Team has made inroads, spreading the word about our programme, through Association affiliation. The revamped website (www.sawriters.org.uk) now provides useful resources and advice for writers at any stage of development.

The Scottish Association of Writers has a fine tradition, but we want it fit for the 21st Century. We are investing in new vision, which is an ongoing process and we want it to involve **you.**”



SAW 100 Club -

Congratulations to the winners for the December draw, **Elaine Mann** from Eastwood Writers; January draw, **Janice Johnston** from Ayr Writers, and our Special Christmas Draw, **Joan Fleming** of Erskine Writers.

There are 60 members of the current 100 Club and you can sign up/renew for next year. Please check if you need to renew or open a new standing order.

Standing for the Council

Lesley Deschner is standing down as Accommodation/Affiliation Secretary in March. Unfortunately, I am also having to relinquish my post as Publicity Officer. I've been involved with the Council for around eight years now, both as a serving member and working at Conference in various capacities. I've really enjoyed being part of what is a very harmonious group and would love to continue. However, due to family and work commitments, I don't have enough time to devote to the role.

The **Affiliation Secretary** provides affiliated club liaison and engagement, researches clubs not currently affiliated and routes for them to engage and makes and sustains contact with sister organisations.

The **Publicity Officer** edits newsletters and solicits articles and news, provides information for the Association website. Is a member of the club outreach team, writes and prepares press releases. Ensures the Association has an appropriate profile with sister organisations. Is involved in the Conference Prize Giving and return of manuscripts.

ACCOMMODATION - Lesley - lesdes@talk21.com

Since last Conference, many of the booking arrangements have changed and I'm sure some of you are feeling a bit confused. You will be aware that those who have registered late, or waited until now to secure their booking, have been asked to share as there are no single occupancy rooms left. You will be delighted to know that the Westerwood has agreed to continue to take single occupancy bookings up until this Saturday, 25 January, when all unsecured rooms will be released.

Naturally, if you want to attend the Conference after this time, please contact Louise (direct number, 01236 860 700, 9.00-17.00 weekdays) and ask about availability of rooms and if at all possible, please try to find someone to share with.

Please note that this facility is only for this year - in 2015, our single occupancy numbers may increase but the rate is likely to rise. This information will be circulated in due course and posted on the SAW website and Facebook. It is the intention of this Council to increase numbers attending the Conference, so in future, twin and triple rooms will be favoured to accommodate numbers.

N.B. Day Delegates do not require to secure their booking and may continue to book until further notice. Please remember to pay in full at time of booking.

Thank you for your patience.

Here are some other Conference Notes:-

Display Material : A reminder to clubs to bring display material and to request display space for their club. Clubs who want display space should contact Marc Sherland marcsherland@me.com .

Authors - please register your books

A reminder to authors to put in a request with Lynne Carson to have their books on sale in the bookshop. Lynne, who runs the bookshop for us, will explain the arrangements. For authors wishing to bring their own books to sell, there will be a 10% charge on sales.

Clubs can bring their own books/anthologies to sell through the bookshop or beside their display (using an honesty box).

Please bring **raffle prizes** - donated by your clubs and individuals, for our Grand Raffle (though, unlike me, I suggest you keep them well out of the way of pets until you bring them). There will also be a **book exchange**, so bring along a book you are finished with and swop it for another for £1.

Trophies - can holders of **all trophies** please have them polished up and ready to return to us at the Westerwood in March.



This year, there will be an alternative programme running at the same time as the adjudications are going on, so that there is more choice for people to engage with. There will also be a formal Gala Dinner on the Saturday night

OUTREACH VISITS

If you would like us to come and visit your Club, please let us know. This year we have already visited Weegie Wednesday and next week will visit Falkirk Writers.

CLUB/MEMBERS NEWS

Congratulations to Helensburgh and District Writers' Workshop member **Ann Mackinnon**, who is a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award 2014 winner for her Scots Poetry.



Ann says: "I am delighted and am really looking forward to having a mentor to help me with my writing. I'd like to get a collection of my Scots poems together as I feel Scots should be promoted and getting this award gives me the confidence to write more in Scots."

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The **Writer's Umbrella** is running a special competition to commemorate the start of the 1st World War.

Many other groups are going to feature commemoration of 'The Great War' in their annual programmes. This is no reason for the Umbrella to avoid this most important and tragic of memorials. Therefore there is in addition to the existing competitions for stories and articles of no more than 500 words and poems of no more than 20 lines, we will feature a special competition that will be open all year.



We Will Remember Them

1914

A competition for a short story of less than 3,000 words or a poem of 40 lines or less commemorating the start of the First World War 1914 – 18. The theme can be any aspect of the war: the role of women in the field or at home; the battles; the aftermath; the wounded; the war outside Europe; any other appropriate aspect of the conflict. Entry is free for members of the Writers' Umbrella, £5 per entry for non-members. Deadline 31 December 2014.

There is no limit to the number of entries submitted. First prize is £50 cash. The winner will be announced and the winning entry published in the February / March Newsletter 2015.

Send to: Barbara Hammond, 14, Ladysgate Court, Carronshore, Falkirk FK2 8HE or e-mail to barbara@ladysgate.freeserve.co.uk

SAW vice-president **Michael Malone**'s latest book, *The Guillotine Choice* will be released on Thursday, 13 March. Waterstones, Ayr is holding an event to launch the book on the 13th and Waterstones, Argyle street, Glasgow on the 20th. All are welcome - please contact the shops for details.

The Guillotine Choice is a novel based on the true story of an innocent young Algerian man who was sent to Devil's Island in 1930, rather than have his cousin guillotined by the French authorities.

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Edinburgh Writers' Club would like to share the success of their novelists:

San Cassimally - *The Case Book of Irene Adler* - Available on Kindle:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Case-Book-Irene-Adler-ebook/dp/B0097VVC4G/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1376593688&sr=1-1&keywords=the+case+book+of+irene+adler+san+cassimally

Victoria Hendry - *A Capital Union* - Published by Saraband

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Capital-Union-Victoria-Hendry-ebook/dp/B00CNVQVA2/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1389534018&sr=1-1&keywords=a+capital+union

John Priestley - *Eltham Palace* - Published by The History Press

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Eltham-Palace-Jason-Priestly/dp/0750955546/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1389534083&sr=1-2-fkmr0&keywords=eltham+palace+priestley

Mike Scoins - *His Darker Eye*

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/His-Darker-Eye-ebook/dp/B00GQDIGKQ>

Anne Stenhouse - *Mariah's Marriage* - Published by MuseltUp

Available from the publisher, and on Kindle:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Mariahs-Marriage-ebook/dp/B00CMAEKPM/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1376594403&sr=1-1&keywords=mariah%27s+marriage+anne+stenhouse

and

Bella's Betrothal - Published by MuseltUp

Available from the publisher, and on Kindle:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Bellas-Betrothal-Anne-Stenhouse-ebook/dp/B00FGEC5N0/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1389534349&sr=1-1&keywords=bella%27s+betrothal

Anne Stormont - *Change of Life*

Available on Kindle: http://www.amazon.co.uk/Change-Of-Life-ebook/dp/B004IEAF0Y/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1376594534&sr=1-1&keywords=anne+stormont

Helen Welsh - *Tales of the Auld Grey Toun* - Available on Kindle:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Tales-Auld-Grey-Toun-ebook/dp/B00E4KE7KQ/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1376594466&sr=1-1&keywords=helen+welsh

And not forgetting their multi-published Honorary President **Alanna Knight** and writing twins **Helen and Morna Mulgray**.

For example:

Alanna's latest Inspector Faro story, on Kindle (also available in hardback)

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Murders-Most-Foul-Inspector-ebook/dp/B00AO3VX40/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1376595021&sr=1-1&keywords=murders+most+foul+alanna+knight

The twins' new title, their fifth, *No. 1 Suspect*, available in hardback:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/No-Suspect-The-Mulgray-Twins/dp/0719807328/ref=sr_1_cc_1?s=aps&ie=UTF8&qid=1376595344&sr=1-1-catcorr&keywords=no+1+suspect+mulgray

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News from **PerthshireWriters**

Perthshire Writers have welcomed two new members this year. Club nights are well attended and we have enjoyed visits from excellent guests. Our poetry competition was adjudicated by Sheila Templeton, who talked about her approach to poetry, read some of her work and was a delightful guest. Winner of the poetry competition was Anne Pack; runner-up Margaret Gillies Brown. We held our annual silent auction in December. This is a popular event where members donate unwanted gifts, items that have outlived their use and so on, to raise funds for the group. On December 17, we were very pleased to have a visit from Marc Sherland and Jen Butler as part of the SAW Outreach programme. Marc gave an excellent presentation to the group and both he and Jen joined in the evening's activities. You are welcome any time Mark and Jen. A few of us will be at SAW - looking forward to seeing everyone.

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Sunart Writers meet Jenni Fagan.

'The Panopticon' is the debut novel by Scottish writer Jenni Fagan. Recognised by Granta as a Best Young British Novelist 2013, Jenni, has received accolades from many authors, including Irvine Welsh, Jackie Kay and Ali Smith.

When Sunart Writers' Group was approached by the Scottish Book Trust about a possible meeting with Jenni, the offer was accepted immediately.

Sunart, and the loch similarly named, are on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. Morvern forms the southern-most region of the peninsula, part of which is managed by the Ardtornish estate. In collaboration with the Scottish Book Trust, Ardtornish supports one writer annually in November/December, by offering a cottage for a three week retreat. Last year, Jenni was the lucky recipient.

One wind-swept evening last December, five (of our six) members headed over the hill to 'Rose Cottage' to meet Jenni and her writer husband, Joe.

Jenni's purpose during this retreat was to turn her novel into a screenplay. Normally, this isn't the author's job, but because she has had experience of film writing, she felt she wanted to do it.

Jenni then discussed the people who inspire her, with reference especially to Lydia Davis, the short story writer. As an admirer of the short story form, Jenni drew attention to the pared down style of Lydia Davis. Gertrude Stein, whose work was met with mixed feelings in the group, was also mentioned.

Throughout the evening, her laptop on her knee, Jenni was searching constantly for references to other writers and poets. She is an enthusiastic squirrel, hoarding favourite quotations and phrases. Lines of literature kept popping up, to both amuse and to provoke debate.

Jenni is Writer in Residence at Edinburgh University. During the evening she recommended some exercises to take away for use in our future meetings. This led to us being invited to read our own work - a variety of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Jenni and Joe provided very enthusiastic, lively responses.

Thank you Scottish Book Trust, and thank you to Jenni for being so open, hospitable and encouraging to the writers of Sunart.

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Pamela Duncan of Eastwood Writers has a novel out, *On the Swing of One Star*, published by Authorway.



Her mother is killed in the London Blitz. Her father is lost at sea whilst serving in the Merchant Navy. Approaching her 16th birthday, Angie Bolton faces life without the guidance of her parents.

But her father has left her a legacy. A legacy of dreams they shared and it proves to be her driving force as she strives to carve a road for herself against a background of the aftermath of war.

She is disillusioned with life in London with Uncle Cyril, whom she detests, and Edwina Ferrie, his housekeeper, whom she distrusts.

A chance encounter with Lynn Arnold opens a door to luxury and a world to which Angie doesn't feel she belongs. It is a world that offers fun, love and tragedy in equal measure, but could it also hold the key to her fulfilling her aspirations?

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With warmest good wishes

Sharon
Sharon Mail - Publicity Officer