



Newsletter – Mar, 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!

Less than two weeks until our first Westerwood Conference. We hope that it will be a **WARM**, memorable weekend for all able to attend.

Here are some 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 marsherland@me.com.

Member's Display - Reminder: Should you have a personal writing service to promote, you will be allowed an A5 size flyer on a display board that is set aside, as well as being encouraged to circulate business cards.

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).

POETRY WALL – Remember to bring an entry for the Poetry Wall. Voting slips will be provided in your Conference Welcome Pack and the Winner, who will receive the **Eastwood Writers' Trophy**, will be announced at the Conference Gala Dinner on the Saturday night.

Please bring **raffle prizes** – donated by your clubs and individuals, for our **Grand Raffle**. There will also be a **book exchange**, so bring along a book you are finished with and swop it for another for £1.

Competition Entrants – Remember to have a list of your entries and the pen names you used for them.

AGM – Can you please bring the Minutes of the last AGM, which will be sent to you shortly before the Conference, with you.

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



Alternative Programme: 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 – so feel free to bring your ‘glad rags’.



SAW 100 Club – Drawing in a Crowd

Congratulations to the winner of the February draw, **Gill Duncan** from Perth Writers. The March and April Draws will take place at the Conference Gala Dinner, on Saturday, March 22.

There are 61 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.

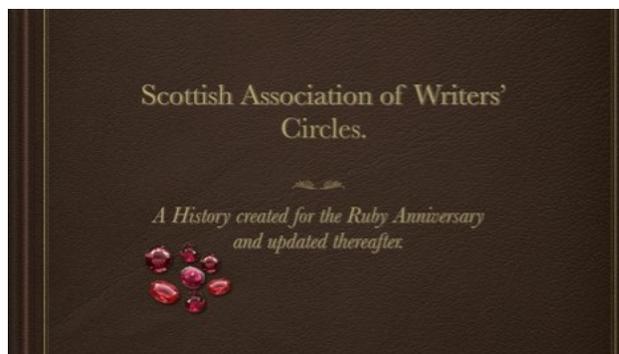
Standing for the Council

A reminder that Accommodation/Affiliation Secretary Lesley Deschner and I are having to stand down.

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.

SAW WEBSITE: www.sawriters.org.uk Huge changes have been made in the range of material on display on the website and this ranges from new resources added to the Writers' Ink Page and Resources Page, to a YouTube history of the Association on the Home Page. The site is a developing resource and locus for really good materials and information about the life of the Association outside of the Conference.



WRITE DOWN SOUTH - The flyer and competitions linked into Write Down South, to be held on Saturday 21 June in the Robert Burns Centre in Dumfries are now available on the SAW website.

OUTREACH VISITS

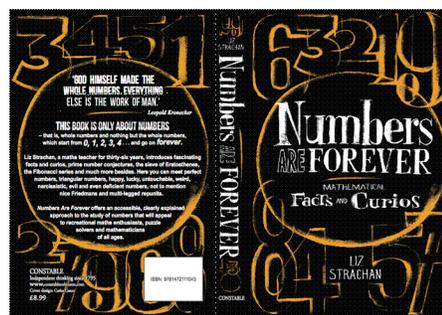
If you would like us to come and visit your Club, please let us know. This year we have already visited Weegie Wednesday and Falkirk Writers and just this week will be going out to the Scottish Arts Club - Writers Group..

CLUB/MEMBERS NEWS

Edinburgh Writers Club will be taking part in Edinburgh's 2014 Spring Fling on 12 April from 10:30 at the Eric Liddell Centre, Morningside Road, Edinburgh. It is an annual gathering and display of voluntary and interest groups of all kinds. We would be happy to talk to anyone who has an interest in writing and there are always sweets on our stand! If anyone would like to know more about our club they can contact our membership secretary, Kate Blackadder: katewritesandreads@gmail.com

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Angus Writers' member **Liz Strachan** has a new Maths book out in March. *Numbers are Forever* is published by Constable, out on March 20, with a launch at Waterstones,



Dundee, on March 29.

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Profile of one of our newly affiliated Clubs, with news of an exciting competition they are running:

Scottish Arts Club Writers Group – Sara McBean

The Scottish Arts Club, located in classic Rutland Square, is a friendly, welcoming place for creative people – and those who just like to get together for good conversation. It has been in operation for 140 years, and provides members with a lively programme of talks, films, recitals and exhibitions. The Club has a beautiful art studio used for portrait, life—drawing and other arts, a great restaurant and a club room with a fine grand piano. It also includes an active Writers Group which has been running since January 2013.

Between 8 and 15 members attend the monthly meetings to share progress on their highly varied projects - short and long fiction, poetry, travel, family history and biography. Beginning in April, each meeting will include a flash fiction competition as well as readings and detailed review of the work of two or three members. Sessions with established authors will also be introduced by the summer and a practical writing group is also expected to get underway in the next few months, meeting in the Club studio for several hours weekly.

On Saturday 26 April members of the group will be presenting some of their varied work during a special Writers Lunch at the Club – from poetry as close to home as Rutland Square to tales of Indonesian barbers, from conjugal camping in the highlands to European waterworks and a beautiful murder. All members of the Club and their guests are invited to attend and to stay for lunch in the Club dining room.

Scottish Arts Club Short Story Competition

This year the first Scottish Arts Club Short Story Competition was launched which will be judged by much-loved Scottish author Alexander McCall Smith. McCall Smith has been associated with the Club for many years and has often featured it in his Edinburgh-based tales. Some members actually visited the Club for the first time after reading about it in Alexander McCall Smith's novels.

The short story competition is open to all published and unpublished writers over 16 years. The stories, up to 1,500 words, can be on any topic – and must be submitted by 30 April. The first prize will be presented during the Annual Garden Party of the Scottish Arts Club on Saturday 16 August 2014. It includes £300 plus transport from any UK address and accommodation for two people for two nights during the Edinburgh Festival. Signed copies of McCall Smith's novels will also be awarded to the top ten winners. Interested writers can enter the competition via the Scottish Arts Club website <http://www.scottishartsclub.co.uk/shortstory>

The Scottish Arts Club is expanding and many new and exciting activities are planned for 2014. We welcome new members and would like to invite anyone interested in the Club to drop by 24

Rutland Square for a visit. The Writer's Group is led by award-winning novelist Sara Cameron – now working under her married name of Sara McBean. Please contact her at saramcbean@yahoo.com if you are interested in the Writers Group.

Marc Sherland's latest project a publishing press called WILD WORD PRESS has released it's first book penned by the remarkable Scot's poet Tony Capaldi. The book titled 'Tha Work in



If ever there was a "people's man," it is Tony Capaldi, his verse shows that from first through to last. Poet, actor, historian, Capaldi writes about his passions: people, theatre, language, and religion. His writing, both playful and serious is inspired by and modelled on his hero, Robert Burns. This is Scottish writing, full of rich Scottish characters and vernacular, and travels from Springburn to the fields of Culloden .

Despite his Italian heritage, Tony is passionate about Scotland and he knows every inch. As a very young boy, Tony sustained severe injuries after falling from a tree (Yon Tree) which left him with physical disabilities. Not able to drive, he nonetheless donned his kilt and set off, hitchhiking and walking his way through glens and over bens, staying at youth hostels and befriending countless people along the way. He partially lost use of his right hand and taught himself to write with his left, producing hundreds of beautiful poems about the people and places of Scotland.

Tony is a wordsmith. His love of language and natural ability as a linguist compel him to play with words. His expressive language is full of puns, metaphor, spoonerism, and of course, rhyme. First and foremost, Tony Capaldi is an entertainer. Have a heart and you will surely be entertained with this book .

WILD WORD PRESS IS A VIBRANT PUBLISHING VENTURE AIMED AT NEW OR DESERVING WRITERS, YET TO BE RECOGNISED. MARC R. SHERLAND IS THE EDITOR PUBLISHER.

ISBN 978-0-9927147-0-3

£7.95 in UK

Tha Work in Scots o' Tony Capaldi



Scots o' Tony Capaldi' has tribute poems in Burnsian style covering the exploits of Ben McGhee, a latter day Tam o' Shanter as well as Tony's own personal biographical poems. A fine and guid read.

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With warmest good wishes

Sharon

Sharon Mail – Publicity Officer