



February 2015

Welcome to our February edition of our newsletter and apologies for this addition running a little late. Time goes by so quickly and before you know it, the conference will be upon us. With that said, our Council sends their kind regards and warm wishes.

SAW 100 Club

Congratulations to Angus Writer's Jan Strickland, our SAW 100 club, our February winner.

"The SAW 100 Club will announce the winners for March & April 2015 during the conference weekend. Supporting our projects, and with a view to the future, the SAW 100 Club is a very real and positive way of getting involved in the success of your Association. A winner is drawn on the first of every month, and the name of the winner is posted on Facebook, the SAW Newsletter and the SAW website. How does it work? For £12 a year (£1 per month) your name is included in our monthly draws. The more members we have, the higher amount of prize money is available. Look for our display at the conference where you can sign up and add a little excitement to the first of every month. "

Look forward to seeing you,
Jen x

Card Reader

The card reader will be available in the Conference shop for transactions over £5. Along with shop purchases we will accept card payments for 100 Club membership and affiliations. Simply take your form to the shop and make the payment. Lynne will keep your registration/affiliation form and pass it on to me for the records. Couldn't be simpler or more convenient.

Important Reminder

Could all trophy winners from last year's conference remember to bring back the trophies? Your attention on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Promote Your Club at The Conference

Please note that there will be two panels of exhibition space for clubs to display information about Club programmes, to sell anthologies and promote successes. Should you wish panel space, please email Marc as soon as possible at president@sawwriters.org.uk.

Annual Conference 2015

Westerwood Hotel &
Conference Centre,
Cumbernauld,
G68 0EW

27th to 29th March

**A MUST FOR YOUR
DIARY !!!**



SAW 100 Club

The more members
we have, the bigger
the prizes!

Download your
membership form
today



Meet Jen Butler



Jen Butler is a very much loved and valued member of our Council who works hard, putting her life and soul into being the best Secretary for SAW that she could possibly be. She is known to all of us, but let's have a look and see how much we really know about 'our' Jen. I put the usual questions to her

Q. *Where did you grow up?*

I grew up in Puerto Rico, the island in the Caribbean where I was born. At 19 I decided that my life needed a change, some adventure. I took a plane to California and lived there for 11 years. I met my husband online, and in 1999 I moved to Scotland. I guess you could truly say I've had ample change and adventure. I can't wait for my next chapter!

Q. *What is your favourite colour?*

My favourite colour is green. I associate it with all living things. Green is peaceful, full of life and abundantly generous and fertile. "Where there is life, there is hope", and so I associate green with hope, life, fertility, lush abundance and natural beauty.

Q. *What was the inspiration behind your passion for writing?*

Perhaps man's greatest achievement is the written language. It is an efficient way of communicating across time. Because of this achievement, I have read words from past centuries drenched in wisdom about life, courage, death and significance to name just a few. This art form has enriched my mind and spirit. I believe in sharing our human experience, and this is why writing is so significant to me, because it allows us all to touch one another.

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.



Join Us

Join us on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sawriters> and visit our web site www.sawriters.org.uk



AFFILIATION

Once again it is the time for affiliation membership renewals. **Please renew today. Your membership is invaluable and your SAW needs you. For bank details please contact:**
pajamurs@btinternet.com

Q. *What was your first pet and what was he/she called?*

My first pet is my dog Tess. She is a border collie, 13 years of age. She has trained me well, and I in turn am allowed to take her for walks and feed her treats. It's a fair trade.

Q. *What is your 'all time' favourite book?*

Whilst at university I took a semester where we studied the works of Dante Alighieri, namely The Divine Comedy. This masterpiece documents the soul's journey through hell, purgatory and paradise. It is rich in imagery, describing great universal topics like fear, evil and hope. I've read it so many times that I know sections of it by heart

Q. *What is your burning desire?*

I would love to visit China, perhaps for an extended visit, whilst I am still healthy and able.

Q. *Do you have any words of wisdom that will help those who are entering future SAW competitions or competitions for any of our other venues?*

My only words of wisdom is to glean wisdom from the wise. Obviously always submit your best work and enter to win. However, winner or not, read and absorb the critiques from the experts. Look at your work as objectively as possible, trying to understand the recommendations of the experts. These critiques improved my abilities and focused my creativity.



Saw Alumni

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.



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.



The 46th Annual Conference



The 46th Annual Conference is just round the corner, once again in the first class amenities of the Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld.

If you have not already done so, download the prospectus from our website, www.sawriters.org.uk. It shows a programme full of learning and fun.

The Guillotine Choice

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

Have You Registered Yet?

Please note a few easy steps that will see you registered For the 2015 conference – you can do this without leaving the house!



Go to the SAW website and access the registration form.
Copy and paste it to word (or your equivalent.)
Fill it in and save.
Go to your online bank service.
Transfer £30.00 to the SAW account – Clydesdale Bank account number 50401535.
Sort code 82-20-00 using ref: CREG
Attach and save registration to an email. In the body of the email put your name, address and the date and time of the bank transfer. This information will make it easier for Jacklin to match the registration to the payment
Send the email to Jen at jen.butler@blueyonder.co.uk and a copy to Jacklin at pajamurs@btinternet.com.

Simples ☺

Promote Your Club

Should you wish your club to feature in future newsletters, please contact Susan McVey at susanscribes@gmail.com

Helpers Required

We are always looking for helpers at the conference to help make the weekend run efficiently and smoothly. Should you find yourself with some spare time and would like to assist, please speak to one of our council members. Many thanks.



Conference Workshops

SATURDAY

10.15 – 11.15 Fiction Writing

Story Structure Part 1 – Alexandra Sokoloff

Please note that this is a two part workshop, with a second session later in the day.

10.15 – 11.15 DC Thomson / The People's Friend

Viewpoint – a common issue – Shirley Blair

10.15 – 11.15 Drama

Every Scene is a character scene – Danny McCahon

02.30 – 03.30 DC Thomson / The People's Friend

Inspiration – where to find it / how to listen to it – Shirley Blair

02.30 – 03.30 Fiction Writing

Story Structure Part 2 – Alexandra Sokoloff

The second part of the earlier session

02.30 – 03.30 Children's Writing

Writing for children and getting published – Mairi McLelland

02.30 – 03.30 Poetry Workshop

Poetry Writing – Alison Craig

03.50 – 04.50 Writing Craft

The art and craft of writing, including humour – Liz Rettig

03.50 – 04.50 Writing Craft

Imaginative Interpretation – Malcolm Archibald

03.50 – 04.50 Self Publishing Indie Books

Focus on selling your books online – Linda Gillard

03.50 – 04.50 Non Fiction Writing

Factual Writing – Roger Hutchinson

Club Affiliation

Do you know of any writers who meet together but are not affiliated to the Association? Please pass them our details and we can encourage them to join our community.



Promote a Member

Do you have a member in your club who deserves some well earned recognition? If so, please let us know and we would be delighted to feature them in future newsletters. Contact Susan McVey on susanscirbes@gmail.com

Conference Workshops

SUNDAY

11.00 – 12.30 Fiction Writing

Master-class in Dialogue – Michael Malone

11.00 – 12.00 Fiction Writing

The art of crafting – and selling – short stories – Russel McLean

11.00 – 12.00 Publishing

Get Published – Al Guthrie

Conference Raffle

There has been a change to the way the raffle is being drawn. Previously the draw took place on Saturday night after the Speaker. However, taking on board feedback from the membership and appreciating that it made for a late night; we are trying out something new this year. The raffle will be drawn and the winning tickets displayed on a board in the coffee break area on Sunday morning. The board will be there during the break between AGM and the Club representatives meeting to allow winners to choose their prizes.

Anyone bringing a prize for the raffle can leave them with Cathie Devitt in the foyer when they are checking in.

Other Information

There is a cash machine on site at the Westerwood Hotel but please note that there is a 1.75% charge. Our bookshop is now equipped to take card payments by both debit and credit card.

Alanna Knight (MBE)



It is a pleasure to announce that Alanna Knight, one of the most popular authors in UK libraries and a leading crime writer with three historical crime series will be at the conference and her books will be available to purchase in the bookshop.

Have you ordered your copy of Beyond the Rage?
Go on . . . you know you want to

Twitter

Join us on Twitter at
@ScotAWriters



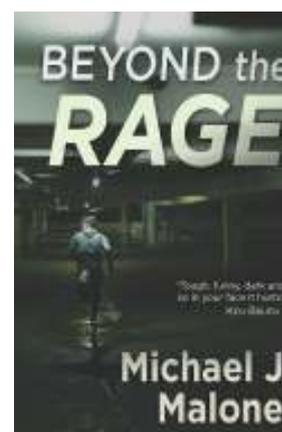
SAW 100 Club

Join our SAW 100 Club today. Download application form from our Website
www.sawriters.org.uk



Federation of Writers

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



Important Diary Date

Please note that the Club Representatives meeting will be held in Perth in April on the 18th of April 2015. The Council looks forward to meeting with you to share and discuss your views.



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 subject that you would like to put forth, please contact Susan at susanscribes@gmail.com. We look forward to receiving and publishing your letters.

Winning Words

There will be opportunity at the conference for competition winners to read their entries. So make sure you've read through your work and got it polished up. You never know, it could be you up there, giving your best performance.

Good luck to you all and I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Catherine Walker
Deputy Competition Secretary

Conference Talent Show



You are invited to show-case your talent at SAW conference 2015

Saturday nights may never be the same again!

Sing/Dance/Juggle/Mime/Magic/Music/Jokes/Surprise us!

Register your interest with [Cathie Devitt](#) before or during the conference.

All we need is your name/type of act and we are ready to rock!

Come along, watch, be inspired.

Don't believe in cliches... everyone loves a show off!

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Dear Members

The Council are recommending a couple of changes to the Constitution (a copy of the Constitution can be downloaded from the website and Facebook files), as parts of it are in need of clarification and modernisation, or have fallen behind our usual practices and terminology.

It would be helpful if our members would read over the existing constitution and the proposed changes before the AGM in order to keep the AGM within its programmed time. Please let us know of any concerns or comments by emailing the secretary (secretary@sawriters.org.uk).



Existing terminology - Rule 3c - Payment of Membership Fees

1. Affiliation and Capitation Fees become due and payable when the application for membership has been approved.
2. Continuing fees become payable on 1st February.
3. If payment is not made within three months of that date, membership of the Club will be deemed to have lapsed.



Proposed changes - Rule 3c - Payment of Membership Fees

1. Affiliation and Capitation Fees become due and payable when application for membership of the Association has been approved.
2. **Thereafter, renewal Affiliation Fees are payable on 28th February each year.**
3. If payment is not made within three months of that date, membership of the Club will be deemed to have lapsed.



Existing terminology - Rule 6 - General Purposes Committee

The Committee shall be formed by the members of the Council together with one Delegate from each Club in the affiliated membership not otherwise represented.

Proposed changes - Rule 6 - Club Representative Committee

The Committee shall be formed by the members of the Council, **together with one Representative** from each **Affiliated Club**.

In common practice this committee will meet twice a year, once during the Annual Conference, after the Annual General Meeting and thereafter once more at a time and place determined by the Council.



The purpose of such meetings will be to offer advice, opinion and guidance to the Council.

Existing terminology - Rule 9a - Annual General Meeting

1. The Council shall determine the date and place of the Annual General Meeting, and shall make arrangements for the suitable conduct of the meeting.
2. Notice of the AGM shall be given to Clubs in membership and to all honorary members at least eight weeks before the meeting is to take place.



3. At the same time nominations should be invited for the Office Bearers to be elected at that meeting.
4. Nominations for the Office Bearers and any resolutions to be considered at the AGM must be received by the Secretary to the Association not later than six weeks before the date of the AGM.
5. A final Agenda of all business shall be made available on request to all Clubs and Honorary members not less than fourteen days before the AGM.
6. The Chairman of the AGM shall be the President of the Association or in his/her absence, the Vice-President.
7. Only members of Clubs attending the meeting shall be entitled to vote. Voting shall be by show of hands unless otherwise determined.
8. Motions of urgency may be accepted for discussion up to the day of the meeting at the discretion of the Chairman of the AGM.
9. A quorum shall be deemed present if twenty members, in addition to members of the Council. (See Rule 5) are in attendance.

Proposed changes - Rule 9a - Annual General Meeting

1. The Council shall determine the date and place of the Annual General Meeting, and shall make arrangements for the suitable conduct of the meeting.
2. Notice of the AGM shall be given to Clubs in membership and to all Honorary members at least **six** weeks before the meeting is to take place.
3. At the same time nominations are invited for the Office Bearers to be elected at that meeting, **however nominations may be tendered at the Annual General Meeting, so long as the person concerned is willing to stand and such nomination is seconded.**
4. Any resolutions to be considered at the AGM must be received by the Secretary to the Association not later than four weeks before the date of the AGM.
5. A final Agenda of all business shall be made available on request to all Clubs and Honorary members not less than fourteen days before the AGM.
6. The Chairman of the AGM shall be the President of the Association or in his/her absence, the Vice-President.
7. Only members of **Affiliated** Clubs attending the meeting shall be entitled to vote. Voting shall be by show of hands unless otherwise determined.
8. Motions of urgency may be accepted for discussion up to the day of the meeting at the discretion of the Chairman of the AGM.
9. A quorum shall be deemed present if twenty members, in addition to members of the Council. (See Rule 5) are in attendance.

Regards

Marc R. Sherland

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Twitter

**Join us on Twitter at
[@ScotAWriters](https://twitter.com/ScotAWriters)**

Meet Cathie Devitt



[Cathie Devitt](#), our new Affiliation Secretary is a writer from Glasgow.

Cathie has a love of theatre and performing arts. This includes stand up comedy, performance poetry and comedy drama. Her play "[Mammy](#)" written for Glasgow International Comedy Festival in 2011 won 5 star reviews and went on to tour Edinburgh Fringe and Henley Festival.

As a trained **Laughter Yoga** Leader, Cathie often incorporates this skill into her [creative writing workshops](#) and corporate training events.

Cathie's interest in [Wicca](#) developed from her friendship with a High Priestess. A friendship that spans over 20 years. This inspired her to write a novel following the life journey of fictional character Bernice O'Hanlon. Cathie's publisher suggested breaking the novel down into 3 parts showing Bernice's emotional journey from darkness to light.

The trilogy of novellas, begins with Part 1 "[Don't Drink & Fly!](#)" published in Oct 2014 with parts two and three scheduled for summer and winter of 2015.

"Bernice is a witch with many skeletons in her closet. She has an addictive personality, works as a holistic therapist, and struggles to maintain any intimate relationships. Her spells are not always as accurate as they could be, often the result of her having a few too many goblets of red wine.

When mysterious letters start appearing at her door, she begins to think about her childhood and, with the help of her long-suffering friend Maggie, tries to come to terms with her past and the family she left behind. But nothing in Bernice's life is ever simple..."

www.cathiedevitt.com

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Let's Have Fun

Conundrum:

TYHIICSCNYONR -

Riddles:

Brothers and sisters I have none
but this man's father is my father's son.
Who is the man? Answer: The man is my son

What can travel around the world while staying in a corner?
Answer: A stamp

What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?
Answer: A towel

Paul's height is six feet, he's an assistant at a butcher's shop, and wears size 9 shoes. What does he weigh?
Answer: Meat

Spot the Difference

How many differences can you spot?



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

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Woodholm
Crosshands
Mauchline
KA5 5TP

Tel: 07739969201

Email: susanscribes@gmail.com

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.

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