

SECTOR NEWS & VACANCIES

[Remembering Brian Johnstone](#)

Read the Scottish Poetry Library's tribute to Brian Johnstone, poet and co-founder of Stanza, Scotland's International Poetry Festival following the sad news of his passing earlier this month. It includes links to his work and a podcast.

[Indie Book Awards 2021 Shortlist](#)

Congratulations to Douglas Stuart for being shortlisted for *Shuggie Bain* for the fiction category. And to Canongate who published Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library* also shortlisted in the same category and for non-fiction shortlistee Lemn Sissay and his memoir *My Name Is Why*.

[Commonwealth Short Story prize regional winners](#)

Congratulations to Glasgow writer Caroline Farrelly who has been shortlisted for the prize, winning for the region of 'Canada and Europe' with *Turnstones*.

[The British Books Awards 2021](#)

Congratulations to Douglas Stuart for his double whammy Nibbie win of Best Fiction - Debut and Overall Book of the Year for *Shuggie Bain* and to Maggie O'Farrell whose *Hamnet* won the Fiction award. Huge congratulations also to Canongate in the Trade Awards, taking home the Nibbie for Independent Publisher of the Year with Caroline Clarke also awarded Right's Professional of the Year.

[Kelpies 2020 announced](#)

The Kelpies Prizes for Writing and Illustration 2020 were awarded online in May, almost a year later than anticipated due to Covid. Congratulations to writer Jude Reid and illustrator Leanne Goodall.

[The Highland Book Prize](#)

Congratulations to the winner Frank Rennie whose book *The Changing Outer Hebrides: Galson and the Meaning of Place* (published by Acair Books)

[Scotland's National Book Awards are open](#)

The Saltire Society is accepting submissions from books published from 1 September 2019 to 28 February 2021. **Deadline for entry forms is noon on Mon 31 May 2021.** Accompanying books to be delivered to Saltire's office between Monday 31 May and Friday 4 June only.

[Public Judges wanted for Scotland's National Book Awards](#)

Saltire Society is looking for individuals who have a passion for books and experience as authors, editors, readers, librarians, critics, booksellers, or other members of the literary community to form part of their panels of independent and impartial judges for the Fiction, First Book, Non-Fiction and Poetry Awards. **Apply by noon on Tue 25 May.**

[SBT New Writers Awards 2022](#)

Each year the Scottish Book Trust champions a group of emerging writers working in Fiction and Narrative Non-Fiction, Poetry and Children's and Young Adult Fiction. The Awards provide them with the time and support they need to take their writing to the next level. **Apply by noon on Wed 14 Jul.**

[JOB: Call for Guest Reader for Re-creation's anthology of Queer Poetry](#)

Re-creation is searching for a guest submissions reader to help with the future call for submissions for their Anthology in collaboration with Stewed Rhubarb. This role would run for 10 hours maximum, ad hoc, over August & September 2021, with a wage of £200. Applications from BIPOC candidates are strongly encouraged. Re-creation is funded by Creative Scotland is not only a publishing venture: Éadaoin Lynch and Alycia Pirmohamed will

be commissioning & selecting poets from a call for submissions with all contributors offered free 1-to-1 mentorship, workshops, roundtable feedback discussion with the editors, other selected poets, and external facilitators. **Deadline: noon on Fri 28 May**

Fully funded AHRC SGSAH CDA Studentship

The University of Edinburgh and the National Library of Scotland are seeking a doctoral student for an AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award, "Slavery and Race in the Encyclopaedia Britannica (1768-1860): A Text Mining Approach". Annual stipend of £15,690 per year and tuition fees for 3.5 years (FTE). Open to Home and International students.

Apply by 5pm Mon 17 May

JOBS: 2x Admin and Project Workers - GWL

Glasgow Women's Library Glasgow Women's Library is seeking to recruit two Administration and Project Workers. We are looking for organised, proactive and creative individuals who can embrace a wide-ranging role to join our dynamic team. **Apply by Fri 21 May**

JOB: Early Years Digital Content Coordinator

Scottish Book Trust is looking for a motivated & organised Early Years Co-ordinator to manage our social media presence & create content. Salary: Grade 3 (£21,500- £25,999); Full-time (35 hours), Permanent. **Apply by Mon 24 May at 9am.**

Cove Park calls for new Trustees

Cove Park is looking to appoint new Trustees committed to supporting our mission at a key moment in our history – addressing the urgent issues and challenges of these unprecedented times, building a sustainable and nurturing environment to provide creative residencies within the international cultural landscape. **Apply by Mon 24 May.**

JOB: Push the Boat Out Program Producer

Edinburgh's International Poetry Festival is looking for a collaborative, flexible, proactive colleague to work with their festival management team to deliver their first iteration to the highest possible standard. **Apply by 5pm on Mon 31 May**

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Moniack Mhor - Made To Measure Mentoring

Moniack Mhor's new programme offers a bespoke approach to mentoring in fiction, non-fiction, poetry and songwriting. The pilot scheme supports writers at every level of ability and at every stage of writing. For more info contact mentoring@moniackmhor.org.uk

Call for paper abstracts for Walter Scott Conference

The 12th International Walter Scott Conference will be hosted online by the Department of English Literature at Edinburgh University in the 250th anniversary on July 6, 7, 8. Proposals for papers or panels on any aspect of Scott's writing, collecting, or curation of his estate at Abbotsford are invited. Particularly welcome will be those which address Scott's understanding of the historical landscape, the interrelation of human societies and their environment, and landscape as both aesthetic and economic resource.

Deadline: Mon 17 May

The Mo Siewcharran Prize 2021

The second year of the prize is open to help discover unpublished fiction writers from Black, Asian and Marginalised Ethnic backgrounds resident in the UK. They are looking for full-length novels and are open to all adult literary fiction genres.

Deadline: Sun 23 May

Orcadian Scots Scriever residency

Applications are now open for the Orkney Scriever residency hosted by the National Library of Scotland. This year, the Library is teaming up with Orkney Library & Archive to give one

Orkney-based writer the opportunity to develop creative work in Orcadian. Funded by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland, the postholder will receive a monthly fee of £1,250 for the fixed-term residency of 12 months.

Deadline: 9am on Mon 24 May

[BlackInk New Writing Competition 2021](#)

Unpublished writers from the African and African Caribbean Diaspora are invited to submit a finished short story (fiction, 2000 words max) Winners will be published in BlackInk Magazine and will receive £500 each.

Deadline: 5pm on Mon 24 May

[Scottish International Storytelling Festival - open call](#)

An open call for creative proposals for a storytelling performance on the theme of 'Imagine'.

Deadline: 5pm on Tue 25 May

[50-word fiction competition](#)

SBT's monthly writing competition has four categories, including Gaelic, with a range of literary prizes on offer. This month's prompt is to write a story featuring a phone.

Deadline: midnight on Tue 25 May

[Comedy Women in Print Prize 2021](#)

Submissions are now open. Seeking brilliant, as yet undiscovered, unpublished manuscript to win a publishing deal with HarperCollins. If you, or someone you know, is a funny female writer, who has so far not been published, apply!

Deadline: Fri 28 May

[Potluck Zine call for submissions](#)

This independent magazine is all about cooking, eating and sharing food and they're looking for writing (all kinds but in particular personal), illustrations, recipes, photography, poetry and comics that fit the theme of FEAST.

Deadline: midnight on Fri 28 May

[The Great Scottish Canvas](#)

The World Wildlife Fund is looking for poetry, prose and art which illustrates the future you want.

Deadline: 5pm on Sun 30 May

[Wigtown Poetry Prize 2021](#)

This international competition has categories in English, Gaelic and Scots along with the Alastair Reid Pamphlet Prize (named in memory of one of Scotland's foremost literary talents) and the Dumfries & Galloway Fresh Voice Award, for poets living in or from the region.

Deadline: Mon 31 May

[Cipher Press](#)

Cipher Press are looking for book-length adult fiction and creative non-fiction from both agented and unagented trans and gender non-conforming writers, queer writers of colour, and queer working-class writers based in the UK.

Deadline: Mon 31 May

[Call for Papers](#)

No Parties magazine is looking for essays and micro, postcard, flash and short fiction pieces for the first issue on the theme of work.

Deadline: Mon 31 May

[Call for pamphlets and collections](#)

Outspoken Press are open for submissions for poetry pamphlets and collections.

Deadline: Mon 31 May

[Diverse Book Awards 2021](#)

Looking for the best Children's, Young Adult and Adult Fiction book published in 2020 and written by a UK author. Self-published authors welcome.

Deadline: Mon 31 May

[All Stories](#)

The brand-new mentorship programme is for aspiring children's or young adult book writers from an underrepresented background. This is a unique and free opportunity to be mentored by an expert editor, with 14 mentorships on offer to underrepresented writers unable to pay for support.

Deadline: Mon 31 May

[The 2021 Queen Mary Wasafiri New Writing Prize](#)

This international competition welcomes work in fiction, poetry, and life writing from unpublished writers around the world. First prize in each category is £1,000. All fifteen shortlisted writers offered mentoring and career guidance from partners The Literary Consultancy and The Good Literary Agency. Entry fee applies.

Deadline: Mon 31 May

[Pitches about Hip Hop dance](#)

The Hip Hop Dance Almanac is commissioning longform written content & deep-dives on specific topics & perspectives on Hip Hop dance. £150-£350 per article.

Deadline: Mon 31 May

[One Story](#)

This North American literary magazine is looking for literary fiction short stories between 3,000-8,000 words and pay \$500 for each one published.

Deadline: Mon 31 May

[Genesis Jewish Book Week Emerging Writers Programme](#)

This programme is open to emerging writers over 18 years of age and living in the UK with no more than three years' experience of being published, who feel they would benefit from the support and insight of a more established writer. It includes a bursary of up to £1500..

Deadline: midnight on Mon 31 May

[FAB Prize 2021](#)

Created by Faber & Faber and the Andlyn Literary Agency, this competition aims to find new writers and illustrators for children from underrepresented backgrounds.

Deadline: 4 June

[2021 Writers' Award competition](#)

This annual competition from Creative Future for underrepresented writers in the UK is seeking submissions of poetry and/or fiction on the theme 'Essential'.

Deadline: midnight on Sun 6 June

[Middle Grade Open Submissions](#)

Guppy books is looking for a new and exciting voice in middle-grade writing. They welcome submissions from all unagented and unpublished authors between 7th and 11th June 2021 and especially encourage people from underrepresented backgrounds to apply.

Submissions window: 7-11 June

Your Stories: Celebration

Scottish Book Trust's annual writing project – Your Stories – is looking for people all over Scotland to submit true stories inspired by this year's theme of Celebration. Every entry will appear on the SBT website and favourite pieces will be published in a free book distributed during Book Week Scotland (15–21 Nov 2021).

Deadline: 11 June

ONLINE EVENTS

EIBF: Celebrating the International Booker Shortlist series

Thu 20 May, 7.30-8.30pm - [Benjamin Labatut & Adrian Nathan West with Jay G Ying](#)

Tue 25 May, 7.30-8.30pm - [Maria Stepanova & Sasha Dugdale with Allan Little](#)

Thu 27 May, 7.30-8.30pm - [Éric Vuillard & Mark Polizzotti with Amelia Gentleman](#)

Queer Aye!

Tue 18 May, 7.30-8.30pm, online, free for members or £3

Join SYP Scotland as they spotlight LGBTQIA+ writers & Scottish indies producing great titles with them. The panel will discuss queer publishing in Scotland, challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ writers, poets & performers, and how the future of the industry, can improve things.

An Evening with Martin MacIntyre

Tue 18 May, 7pm, online £6 (£4 concession)

A medical doctor, writer and storyteller, Martin MacIntyre has always respected the power of poetry to forge stronger connections between people and to achieve artistic and therapeutic results. Martin will present poems by himself and others on the themes of recovery and resilience, in English and Gaelic. Part of Recovery, Reading and Resilience, a season of events presented by the Scottish Poetry Library in association with Lapidus Scotland.

Creative Conversations: Jeremy Atherton Lynn

Wed 19 May, 5.30-6.30pm, Zoom, free

Essayist Jeremy Atherton Lin reading and in conversation. Creative Conversations is programmed by the University of Glasgow Creative Writing Programme and funded by the Ferguson Bequest.

Wigtown Wednesday: Cal Flyn - Islands of Abandonment

Wed 19 May, 7pm, Zoom, free

Author and journalist Cal Flyn talks about her latest book, Islands of Abandonment, a non-fiction book about the ecology and psychology of abandoned places: ghost towns and exclusion zones, no man's lands and fortress islands – and what happens when nature is allowed to reclaim its place.

Thrive Hachette's Debuts Talk

Wed 19 May, 7-8pm, Zoom webinar, free

Join THRIVE and Sarah Shaffi for this online event to celebrate three of the most exciting debut authors of 2021. Sarah will be in conversation with Hachette UK authors - Dawnie Walton (The Final Revival of Opal & Nev) Rahul Raina (How to Kidnap the Rich) and Mateo Askaripour (Black Buck).

Scottish Black Writers Group with Dorothy Koomson

Thu 20 May, 7-9pm, online

This is a new, free writers group, peer support and social space facilitated by Scottish BAME Writers Network's (SBWN) Co-Director Dean Atta and in association with Scottish PEN. Meetups take place on the third Thursday each month. This is a monthly event open to

writers across the UK and Ireland who are Black/from the African diaspora, including people of mixed heritage. Please be mindful while booking!

Open the Door 2021: In Conversation with Sabba Khan and Nyla Ahmad

Sat 22 May, 2-3.30pm, online

Sabba Khan will be discussing her new graphic novel 'The Roles We Play' with Nyla Ahmad of Scottish Book Trust and about the intersection between art and writing as well as who has opened the door to them.

In Conversation with...Maisie Chan

Thu 27 May 7-8pm, online

Join Glasgow Women's Library for this series of online events chatting to emerging and established Women of Colour (WoC) creatives. Maisie Chan is a British-born Chinese author and Dr Gavin Wallace Fellow at Peter Pan Moat Brae, the centre for children's literature and storytelling in Scotland.

Book launch: The Marketplace of Ideas

Thu 27 May, 7-8pm, online, free

Join Stefan Mohamed for the official online launch of his new poetry pamphlet, available for pre-order now from Stewed Rhubarb. Hosted by Stewed Rhubarb Editor Beth Cochrane, with support from Edinburgh spoken word legend Ross McCleary, the launch will feature a mixture of performance and conversation.

Dareen Tatour: My Threatening Poem

Sun 30 May, 7pm, Zoom, £7

Jailed, censored, brutalised but defiant – a dissident Palestinian poet details her experiences in prison, in memoirs published exclusively by new Scottish poetry publisher Drunk Muse Press.

Creative Conversations: David Robertson

Mon 7 Jun, 7-8pm, Zoom, free

Creative Conversations with Indigenous Canada. David A. Robertson is an award-winning author of numerous books for children, YA and adults. Creative Conversations is programmed by the University of Glasgow Creative Writing Programme and funded by the Ferguson Bequest.

Together for a Fair Climate Future event series

A series of six livestream discussion events on how action for the climate crisis and social justice can come together and how to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic in a way that's fair, innovative, and positive for the environment. During the series will hear from artists, activists, academics, policymakers, companies, community organisations, and others.

- **Can technology be a force for good in delivering a fair climate future?**
Tue 8 June 1-2.15pm
- **Leadership for change,** Tue 29 June, 1-2.15pm

Scottish Black Writers Group with Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

Thu 17 June, 7-9pm, online

This is a new, free writers group, peer support and social space facilitated by Scottish BAME Writers Network's (SBWN) Co-Director Dean Atta and in association with Scottish PEN. Meetups take place on the third Thursday each month. This is a monthly event open to writers across the UK and Ireland who are Black/from the African diaspora, including people of mixed heritage. Please be mindful while booking!

Creative Conversations: Jesse Thistle

Mon 21 Jun, 7-8pm, Zoom, free

Creative Conversations with Indigenous Canada. Jesse Thistle is Métis-Cree and an Assistant Professor at York University in Toronto. He is a PhD candidate in the History program at York where he is working on theories of intergenerational and historic trauma of the Métis people.

Moniack in a Month: Starting to Write Your Memoir with Kerry Hudson

Mon 28 June to Fri 23 July 2021, 10am-9.30pm

Kerry will focus on 'giving you the building blocks to tell your story', including character depiction, setting, structure and dialogue. In each session there will be tips and advice combined with short, fun exercises so you can learn the best way – on the job!

BOOK FESTIVALS 2021

14-23 May: [Aye Write](#)

17-23 May: [Bookbug Week](#)

20-22 May: [Open the Door 2021](#) (digital) from Glasgow's Women's Library

26 May onwards: [Ullapool Book Festival](#) - weekly events from 26 May

7-18 June: Wee Write

10-16 June: [Boswell Book Festival](#)

19-26 June: [Independent Bookshop Week](#)

For more, see [Find a Book Festival](#)

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