



## Funding Week SoA Grants

- ▶ Robyn Law, Head of Fundraising, Grants, and Prizes
- ▶ Aine Pullan, Grants and Prizes Manager
- ▶ Natalie Thorpe, Grants and Prizes Design Manager

# Coming up...

- ▶ Grants on offer
- ▶ How to Apply
- ▶ What are assessors looking for?
- ▶ Timeline for grants
- ▶ Support the funds
- ▶ Q&A



# Funding from the SoA

- ▶ Authors Foundation
  - ▶ K Blundell Trust
  - ▶ Arthur Welton Award
- ▶ Contingency Fund
- ▶ Access Fund
- ▶ Strachey Trust Grants
- ▶ PD James Fund
- ▶ Giving out over £500,000 annually

# Authors Foundation

# What we can fund

- ▶ Research trips and travel for a specific project including:
  - ▶ Flights
  - ▶ Accommodation
  - ▶ Food and other expenses while away
  - ▶ An accompanying carer to travel with you if required
- ▶ Basic living costs while writing including any carers costs or childcare costs
- ▶ Time away from other paid work

Grants cannot be used for publication costs such as hiring proof-readers or editors, permissions or indexing, paying a publisher or buying copies of your own book

# Who's eligible?

You have been commissioned by a commercial British or Irish publisher to write or translate a full-length work of fiction, poetry, or non-fiction and need funding (in addition to any publisher's advance) for important research, travel, or other general expenditure.

OR

You are without a contractual commitment with a publisher but have had at least one book published commercially by a British or Irish publisher, of which you are the sole author or translator, and there is a strong likelihood that your next book will be published in Britain or Ireland.

In both cases you must have a non-contributory contract (either currently or for a previous publication) where you, the author, did not pay funds towards publication costs.



K Blundell Trust

# Who's eligible?

The K Blundell Trust, generously endowed by the late Kathleen Blundell, gives grants of up to £6,000 to British authors under the age of 40 whose work, which can be fiction or non-fiction, aims to increase social awareness.

Applicants must send a copy of a previously published work.





# Arthur Welton and Special Awards

# Awarded annually

- ▶ Arthur Welton Awards

*In memory of Arthur Welton this award is generally awarded to poets.*

- ▶ The Great Britain Sasakawa Grant

*One grant of £2,000 is awarded annually to works of fiction or non-fiction about any aspect of Japanese culture or society or set in a Japanese context. Preference will be given to works which help to interpret modern Japan to the English-speaking world.*

- ▶ Antonia Fraser Grants

*This award is for a biography of a woman or women.*

- ▶ John Brooks Awards

*In memory, of John Brooks, this award offers funding to writers based in the West Country or Wales.*

- ▶ Taner Baybars Awards

*This award offers funding for original fiction in the fields of science fiction, fantasy, and magic realism (for both adult and children's fiction).*

- ▶ Eric Ambler Awards

*In memory of Eric Ambler this award is for a spy novel or thriller.*

# Contingency Fund

# What we can fund

- ▶ Make up lost income if you find yourself unable to work
- ▶ Help cover a shortfall if a project falls through
- ▶ Ease the impact on your writing career of illness or a domestic situation
- ▶ Help with one-off expenses, such as the cost of a new boiler or if your computer is on its last legs



# Who's eligible?

- Professional authors who are resident in the UK or British citizens – including fiction writers, illustrators, literary translators, scriptwriters, poets, journalists and others – for whom author-related activities make up a substantial amount of their annual income.
- The fund is not open to editors, copywriters, or for those with salaried income for writing.

# Access Fund

# What we can fund

- ▶ Travel to events including overnight stays and subsistence
- ▶ Childcare and carer support while attending an event, residency, or retreat.
- ▶ Travel, accommodation, and subsistence for a companion if one is required
- ▶ Other access needs such as materials translated into an accessible format



# Who's eligible?

Grants are awarded to all authors, by which we mean:

- ▶ Anyone who creates work for publication, broadcast or performance. You do not need to be a member to apply but you should meet our criteria for membership.
- ▶ Open to UK residents and British citizens.



# Strachey Trust Grant

# What we can fund

- ▶ Strachey Trust Grants are available to authors wishing to travel to a UK archive or collection to research manuscript material, for a specific full-length literary project which has a strong likelihood of publication.
- ▶ By 'manuscripts' we mean any letter, diary or other unpublished matter appertaining to a person of note, including a photographic or digitized copy of such material.



# Who's eligible?

- ▶ This grant fund is open to all authors who are UK resident or British citizens, who wish to access UK-based archives/collections.
- ▶ The author must be working on a specific full-length literary project which has a strong likelihood of publication.

# PD James Fund

# What the fund does

- ▶ Grants are given by a committee to long-term SoA members who are either aged 60 or over or are completely incapacitated for work.
- ▶ The fund currently distributes £2,500 per annum to each recipient on a quarterly basis.
- ▶ The fund is currently accepting applications for new recipients, closing on 31 July 2025.



# Who's eligible?

- ▶ You must have been an SoA member for at least 10 years (this does not need to have been continuous).
- ▶ You must be aged 60 or over or are completely incapacitated for work.
- ▶ Awards are granted at the discretion of the P.D. James Memorial Fund Committee
- ▶ Download the entry form from our website.

# Submitting an Application

# How do I apply?

- ▶ Download the application form from our website
- ▶ Read through questions and get in touch if anything is unclear
- ▶ We can always discuss your specific situation with you regarding eligibility
- ▶ The team can offer support with completing the form or provide it in a different format for you
- ▶ All our funds are open year-round
- ▶ The more details the better
- ▶ Once you are happy with your completed form, please send it via email to [grants@societyofauthors.org](mailto:grants@societyofauthors.org)



# What are assessors looking for?

## Contingency Fund:

- ▶ The amount you received from writing-related activity for each of the past three tax years
- ▶ Outline any payments you make towards annual expenses/ financial commitments
- ▶ Covering statement
- ▶ Name and contact details for a referee



What are assessors looking for?

### Authors Foundation:

- ▶ Name of publisher/ producer for script commission (current or previous)
- ▶ Advance and amount so far received
- ▶ Type of work
- ▶ Writing sample
- ▶ Reason for requesting funding



What are assessors looking for?

Also to consider:

- ▶ Attending an event or accessing an archive?
- ▶ Budget larger than the grant?
- ▶ Reporting?
- ▶ Feedback?

# When will I hear back?

- ▶ 1-2 weeks (depending on amount requested)
  - ▶ Access Fund
  - ▶ Strachey Trust Grants
- ▶ 2 weeks
  - ▶ Contingency Fund
- ▶ Up to 5 months
  - ▶ Authors' Foundation
  - ▶ K Blundell Trust
  - ▶ Arthur Welton and Special Awards
- ▶ PD James recipients who apply for the 31 July deadline will be notified of the decision made by the committee by September 2025



# Benefactors and Supporting the Fund

- ▶ Funds are generously supported by literary and grant giving organisations organisations.
- ▶ Individual giving through events or donations
- ▶ Leaving money to the funds in your will

# Questions



**#SoAatHome** 05.2025



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## How to handle rejection and knock backs in your author career

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*with Kelly Weekes*

SoA Members - Free  
Non-Members - £5



#SoAatHome 06.2025



## Video content in book marketing

*with  
Anna Caig*

SoA Members - Free  
Non-Members - £35



# SoA Awards



- ▶ 18 June, Southwark Cathedral
- ▶ In-person and online
- ▶ Awarding over £140,000 in literary prizes and awards
- ▶ Join us for our awards ceremony with keynote from Joseph Coelho and followed by our summer party
- ▶ Tickets available now



# Contacts

► Robyn Law

[Rlaw@societyofauthors.org](mailto:Rlaw@societyofauthors.org)

► Aine Pullan

[Apullan@societyofauthors.org](mailto:Apullan@societyofauthors.org)

► Natalie Thorpe

[Nthorpe@societyofauthors.org](mailto:Nthorpe@societyofauthors.org)



[\*\*grants@societyofauthors.org\*\*](mailto:grants@societyofauthors.org)