

OPPORTUNITIES FOR POETS

Our list of organisations that offer opportunities to poets and spoken word artists across the UK (such as funding opportunities, bursaries, residencies, open-mic nights, etc.) will be updated annually.

If you're a member of the SoA, don't forget to check out the [local groups](#). There are more than 45 local groups across the UK and abroad, connecting SoA members, including poets and performers, through regular meet-ups and events. Run by members for members, local groups are a great way to meet fellow authors, share knowledge, support and inspire one another. The SoA's [Poetry and Spoken Word Group](#) (PSWG) also aims to hold a minimum of one in-person event per year for SoA members.

The SoA administers a range of grants for authors – supporting works in progress and authors in financial difficulty. Our website has [more information](#) about applications and eligibility.

Please note that companies whose sole purpose is to publish magazines, pamphlets and books are not included in this directory. The Writers' and Artists' Yearbook contains a list of poetry publishers and publishing opportunities in the UK. For practical reasons we cannot include writing groups. If you have any questions about the directory, please email the PSWG group co-ordinator [Sarah Baxter](#).

While we endeavour to ensure the information provided about organisations and events is up-to-date and correct, we make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability or availability with respect to the third-party information, products or services. Any reliance placed on such information is therefore strictly at your own risk.

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East Anglia

Suffolk Poetry Society

Suffolk Poetry Society offers workshops as well as talks, events, and readings.

London

Apples and Snakes

Apples and Snakes is England's leading spoken word poetry organisation. We exist to support poets at all stages of their careers. Working with inspiring people and organisations, we run regular live events and artist development programmes across the country.

Barbican Young Poets

An artist development initiative and community for poets aged 16-29 and free to apply.

National Poetry Library

Hosts workshops, runs regular events, lends books.

Newham Poetry Group

Newham Poetry Group (NPG) is a volunteer-led not-for-profit community group, promoting social inclusion, community engagement, and residents' well-being, through creative activities that include poetry, creative writing, and storytelling. We use creativity as a tool for self-development, social cohesion, and academic support. The organisation offers workshops, poetry weekly sessions, open mics, publishing.

Out-Spoken

Out-Spoken offers a monthly Masterclass, live poetry events, and 'Academy' courses.

Spread the Word

London's literature development agency, whose mission is to help London's underrepresented writers get their work into the world and connect communities to words and stories.

The Women Poets' Network (Rebecca Swift Foundation)

The Rebecca Swift Foundation is the home of the Women Poets' Network, which runs events and resources specifically for women. An active Facebook community is free to join, or there is a modest fee for membership.

Midlands

Verve Festival of Poetry and Spoken Word

A Birmingham-based festival celebrating national poetry and spoken word. Alongside our annual event, we run professional workshops, Poem of the Month platform, publications, Open Mics, and Poet/Performance Commissions in collaboration with Poetry School, Women Poets' Network, and Poetry Foundation.

Writing West Midlands

The literature development agency for the region, providing services including its Spark Young Writers programme, Room 204 Writer Development scheme, and the Birmingham Literature Festival.

North East England

New Writing North

Writing development agency supporting writers and readers in the North of England through events, workshops, performance and more.

Word Up North

Delivers a year-round programme of opportunities for writers, from courses and workshops to mentoring, residencies, networks and commissions.

North West England

Brewery Arts

This Kendal arts venue delivers cultural events and creative learning courses, with a strong spoken word offering.

Gladstone's Library

Runs an evolving programme of courses and events including poetry workshops, and offers a writer in residence programme.

Grizedale Arts/The Farmer's Arms

Following a fundraising campaign led by local arts organisation Grizedale Arts, this venue now hosts literature events including poetry workshops and open mic events.

Manchester Poetry Library

The North West's first public poetry library (located at Manchester Metropolitan University) is open to all and free to join. Drop-in coaching sessions, reading and writing workshops, and professional development events are available.

North West England contd.

[Wordsworth Grasmere](#)

Creative workshops, online poetry nights, and literature webinars from The Wordsworth Trust.

Northern Ireland & EIRE

[Irish Writers Centre](#)

Ireland's 'leading resource and development organisation for writers' offers opportunities including mentoring, masterclasses, residencies, and bursaries to writers across Ireland.

[John Hewitt Summer School](#)

John Hewitt Summer School offers a number of bursaries to their summer programme/festival.

[Queen's University Poetry Summer School](#)

Queen's University Poetry Summer School offers bursaries/subsidies to their summer programme.

[Seamus Heaney Homeplace](#)

Seamus Heaney Homeplace offer writers and poets the opportunity to be a part of its arts programme in the form of hosting workshops or taking part in readings/events.

South East England

[New Writing South](#)

The Writer Development Agency for writers living and working in the South East, offering a range of courses, masterclasses and mentoring.

[Writing Our Legacy](#)

An arts and heritage organisation that enables Black, Asian and ethnically diverse/BPOC people to tell their stories through writing and the creative arts, offering creative workshops, development programmes, yearly publications, spoken word events, mentorships and more.

South West England

ArtfulScribe

ArtfulScribe is a development agency based in Southampton and supports writers in Hampshire and Dorset through live literature, workshops, and residencies.

Dialect

This writer development platform based in Gloucestershire offers mentoring, workshops, and retreat opportunities to rural poets.

Literature Works

The Writer Development Agency for the South-West. Programmes include advice surgeries (with a pay what you can policy) and Quay Words, a live literature programme at Exeter Custom House which also offers a writer-in-residence opportunity.

Lyra Poetry Festival

Lyra Poetry Festival runs the Bristol City Poet residency and Bristol Young City Poet workshops and holds an online and in person poetry festival every April.

Raise the Bar

Raise the Bar is the South West's leading live poetry night, running blockbuster spoken word events in Bristol and beyond since 2014. Raise the Bar also runs artist development activities including writing retreats, workshops and open mics.

Satellite of Love

Monthly open-mic night at the Loco Klub, Bristol.

Tears in the Fence

This literary magazine offers online and in-person poetry workshops, a festival, mentoring, and critical appraisals. (Dorset)

The Bristol Poetry Institute

The Bristol Poetry Institute is run by the University of Bristol's Faculty of Arts and hosts readings, seminars, lectures, conferences and festivals on the subject of poetry. Find them on Facebook, Instagram, X, or Bluesky.

South West England contd.

The Charles Causley Trust

The Causley Trust offers writing residencies and creative freelance stays to poets and creatives. They also run competitions, host an annual Festival, provide mentoring and internship opportunities.

The Writers' Block

Based in Redruth. Mentoring and skills development for emerging writers and performers. The Writers' Block also hold workshops and readings for poets.

Scotland

Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland. It offers funding and resources to all kinds of creative practitioners.

I Am Loud

I Am Loud is Scotland's 'premiere spoken word production organisation'. From monthly showcases at the Scottish Storytelling Centre to open mics, tours, and festival performances, I Am Loud's core aim is to support, develop, and make more sustainable the Scottish spoken word scene.

Moniack Mhor

Scotland's Creative Writing Centre offers courses and retreats (bursaries are available), mentoring, writing support, workshops and events.

Rock the Boat

Push the Boat Out's monthly open-mic night. Push the Boat Out also runs online writing workshops.

The Scottish Book Trust

*A national charity that offers resources, fellowship and grants for writers, including funding for live events. It also maintains a database of creative practitioners available for projects and events ([*The Live Literature Directory*](#)). They also maintain a [*list of Spoken Word Events*](#) across Scotland.*

The Scottish BPOC Writers Network

Scottish BPOC Writers Network (SBWN) is a professional development and advocacy group for Black writers and writers of colour who are Scottish, Scotland-based or have strong links with Scotland.

Scotland contd.

[The Scottish Poetry Library](#)

The Scottish Poetry Library has a programme of poets and provides a rich resource of poetry, contacts and events.

Wales (National)

[Barddas](#)

Barddas is a society which promotes understanding and appreciation of poetry in Welsh, the use of cynganedd, and supports writers, including young poets. It has a quarterly magazine, publishes books, and advances its aims via different schemes, including a popular contribution to the National Eisteddfod, an annual festival called Gŵyl Gerallt, and various competitions.

[Llenyddiaeth Cymru/Literature Wales](#)

Llenyddiaeth Cymru/Literature Wales supports literature and writers across genres in both languages. It runs a limited one-to-one mentoring scheme, has a directory where writers can add their details, controls the Ty Newydd writers' centre and offers limited part-funding for some literary activities.

[Talwrn y Beirdd](#)

Radio Cymru runs Talwrn y Beirdd ('talwrn' = cockpit for cockfighting) where teams from all over Wales compete in a knock-out competition. They are given bardic tasks in strict metre and free meters by the MEURYN (the judge) and they record these programmes in chapel vestries/halls etc all over Wales and audiences attend. Very popular events with a good cross-section of team members (age and gender-wise). The final is held/recorded in the National Eisteddfod every year, and local Talwrn groups have sprung up in several places.

Wales (Local)

[Spoken Word Wales \(online\)](#)

Online resource for poets looking for live events in Wales, with lists of open mic events and venues.

[Swansea & District Writers' Circle](#)

Swansea & District Writers' Circle meets monthly in the Taliesin Arts Centre and online. It has a poetry group, a prose group, runs workshops, socials, and competitions and has a programme of guest speakers open to all to attend.

Wales (Local) contd.

Ysgol Farddol
Caerfyrddin

Ysgol Farddol Caerfyrddin (Carmarthen Bardic School) have been meeting for over 20 years. There are similar groups in Caernarfon, Cardiff and south Cardiganshire.

National / Non-region specific Organisations

Arvon Foundation

Established creative writing organisation that runs courses and retreats.

Mslexia

Mslexia is 'a bestselling quarterly magazine for women who write - with every issue offering paid submission spots for poets'. As well as the magazine, they run an annual poetry competition and their 'Salon' membership offers weekly write-ins, talks and workshops.

National Centre for
Writing

The National Centre for Writing is a national and local writing development agency based in Norwich, offering mentoring, workshops and events for writers of all kinds.

National Poetry Centre

The National Poetry Centre exists to provide a national home for poetry in the UK - connecting people from all backgrounds and cultures to poetry. Its Leeds headquarters will be a hub for poetry awards, events, major performances, exhibitions, workshops, open-mic nights, a library, collections and archives - but the charity is already delivering a programme of work, locally, nationally and internationally.

Poetry School

National arts organisation providing inspiring tuition and opportunities for poets and poetry audiences through workshops and longer courses. (Some bursaries available.)

Royal Literary Fund
(RLF)

Charity delivering a grants programme and Fellowship scheme to authors.

The Poetry Society

The Poetry Society is an arts organisation that operates nationally and internationally, offering workshops and events to authors. The Society facilitates regional poetry critique groups called Stanzas which run across the UK.

Groups working across languages

Exiled Writers Ink

Exiled Writers Ink develops and promotes the creative literary expression of refugees and migrants, increases their representation in the mainstream literary world, develops cross cultural dialogue and advocates human rights and social justice through literature and literary activism. Their work includes a monthly Exiled Lit Cafe, creative writing workshops, live literature performance events, mentoring, translation, publications and symposia.

La Tundra Revista and London Spanish Book & Zine Fair

La Tundra Magazine organises creative writing, poetry and drama workshops in Spanish (online and in person), presentations of books and live interviews and a book fair. The London Spanish Book & Zine Fair (LSBZF) which comprises an exhibitors' fair, presentations and workshops.

Poetry Translation Centre

Organisation dedicated to translating and promoting contemporary poetry from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Runs programmes, events, workshops and some development schemes.

Spanish and Latin American Poets (SLAP)

A group of poets and writers from Latin America and Spain, who live in the UK. The group offers cultural and literary workshops and conferences. See SLAP Group on Facebook for more.

Un Nuevo Sol

A collective of British Latinx and UK-based writers of Latin American heritage who meet regularly and have published anthologies and held many readings, literary cafes and salons. The organisation offers workshops, mentoring, tutoring, publishing, readings, salons, etc.

ABOUT US

The Society of Authors (SoA)

The SoA is the UK's largest trade union for all types of writers, illustrators and literary translators, at all stages of their careers. We have been advising individuals and speaking out for the profession for more than a century. Members receive unlimited free advice on all aspects of the profession, including confidential clause-by-clause contract vetting, and a wide range of exclusive offers.

We campaign and lobby on the issues that affect authors and hold a hundreds of events annually across the UK and online. [Find out more about membership.](#)

The SoA's Poetry and Spoken Word Group (PSWG)

The SoA's Poetry and Spoken Word Group (PSWG) is a professional community for poets and spoken word artists. We come together to discuss issues affecting poets and the spoken word community, offer advice and support, and raise the profile of poetry and performance. We run events to give members the opportunity to socialise, share experiences and learn about topics relevant to their craft. [Find out more.](#)

Other Relevant SoA Guides

This guide is one of several designed to support poets at all stages of their career. You may also find useful:

- [Author Care: A Toolkit for Authors](#) - our free digital resource shows how the principles of good author care can empower authors on their publication journey
- [Fee-based Commissions](#) (M) - practical guidance on how poets can apply for, negotiate, and deliver paid commissions
- [Guidance for Authors Speaking at Events](#) (M)
- [Working in Poetry](#) - helping you to navigate ways of working with and earning through poetry