

THE SOA AWARDS

An Introduction



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2022 SoA Awards at Southwark Cathedral
Photography © Adrian Pope

'I cannot begin to describe how much this award means to me. I probably should be able to describe it, being an author and all, but if you've read my book then you'll know that I do most of my describing through drawings of people looking all sad at each other. Being nominated alongside these wonderful authors was already a surreal dream and the fact that IN was picked as the first graphic novel to win this award is the honour of a lifetime. My only worry is that I'm now too happy to draw sad people.'
—Will McPhail, 2022 Betty Trask Prize winner



Photography
© Adrian Pope



LEMN SISSAY

© Lemn Sissay's keynote speech at the
2022 SoA Awards, Southwark Cathedral

*The BAFTA-nominated OBE poet,
playwright and broadcaster
introduces the 2022 SoA Awards*

The curtains splashed open. The clouds
shuddered. I sensed the world. 'It must be the
day of the Society of Authors awards.'

Clear your throats folks. Cough until your chests
content. No one will hate you. No one will point
at you. No one will report you. No need to feel
guilt. In cough we trust. Sneeze. I will not curse
you. I will bless you. Sneeze again. Bless you.
Cough, cough, cough away. Sometimes I have a
coughing fit,
just.
Because.
I.
can.

Shall I begin?

I will introduce myself later. Much later. If you
don't mind.

They say 'action speaks louder than words.' But
words are the first action.

It's a good time to be an author. Why? Because
there are more words passing between more
people than ever before. More people are fixated
by written words than ever before. [...]

These awards are a flag in the mountainside of
your unique journey. Or they are beacons lit upon

the hill tops by the cairn — carry on, keep going
in the direction you are going. We are firing
arrows tipped with burning bitumen into the sky
at night so that in your darkest moment you can
see bright burning arches of light. Keep going.
Carry on. We believe in you.

Publishers, online and offline, there are
booksellers, podcasts, book clubs, filmmakers,
culture makers, holiday readers and readers
looking to be inspired, they all need you...

It may feel a solitary journey and it is. There will
be times you pause with your pen or hover with
hands above the keyboard. It will feel as if you
are alone but know this. There is an army of us
out in the world.

You don't know our names and you don't know
our faces. We are readers and we are writers.

If you put your ear to the ground first you might
hear the rumbles of the world but concentrate
harder and you will hear all the words of the
world being spoken...

Collectively they repeat over and over again: We
believe in you...keep going...carry on keep going...
carry on...keep going...

We believe in you...keep going

ADCI LITERARY PRIZE

For a novel by a disabled or chronically ill author, featuring one or more disabled or chronically ill characters.

Launched in 2022, the ADCI (Authors with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses) Literary Prize seeks to encourage greater positive representation of disability in literature.

Founded by author Penny Batchelor and publisher Clare Christian together with the Society of Authors, the prize is generously sponsored by Arts Council England, ALCS, the Drusilla Harvey Memorial Fund, the Hawthornden Literary Retreat, and the Professional Writing Academy.

Open to authors with a disability and/or chronic illness, the prize will call for entries of novels which include a disabled or chronically ill character or characters. The prize fund is £2,000.



Penny Batchelor (right) with publisher Clare Christian (left) announcing the ADCI Literary Prize at Southwark Cathedral (photograph © Adrian Pope)

Entry Criteria:

- The author must self-identify as disabled or chronically ill
- The author must be a British national or resident in Great Britain and Northern Ireland for three years prior to the date of submission for the award, and writing in English
- The work must be fiction and must contain one or more characters that are disabled and/or living with chronic illness (poetry, short stories, and works for children are not eligible).

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INTRODUCING THE ADCI LITERARY PRIZE

© Penny Batchelor's speech at the 2022 SoA
Awards, Southwark Cathedral

With author Penny Batchelor

So how did the prize come about?

I used to think that people like me: disabled, northern, with restricted growth, didn't become authors. I never saw anyone like me in the industry. So what should I do with my life? My brother thought he'd found the perfect job for me when he saw an advert for a NatWest Small Business Advisor. Wasn't my height the perfect qualification??

Needless to say I didn't enter the world of finance. My 40th birthday was the catalyst I needed to take the writing plunge and my first psychological thriller, *My Perfect Sister*, was published by Clare in 2020 — unfortunately slap bang in the middle of lockdown!

My novel includes a character called Ian, who has cerebral palsy. But his disability isn't the story — how he can help his old friend Annie try and solve the mystery of her sister's disappearance, is. Soon after publication, I received an email from Clare saying that my book had sparked an idea. How about trying to found a prize for disabled novelists who include disabled characters in their work, and would I like to team up with her? Of course I would! We then brainstormed,

planned, approached possible supporters and sponsors, and were delighted when the Society of Authors welcomed us into their prize stable and secured funding from Arts Council England.

At around the same time our prize plan was germinating, I joined the Society of Authors' newly-formed subgroup, for Authors with Disabilities or Chronic Illnesses, which was co-founded by Claire Wade and Patrick Walsh.

The group is a tremendously supportive and enthusiastic one, full of talented writers who want to improve the recognition of us in the industry, and spread best practice for working with DCI authors.

Their reaction to the prize idea was an outstanding yes!, and it made sense to use the name ADCI for the prize.

For me the aim of improving disability representation in novels is personal. As a bookworm child I hardly ever read about someone like me in novels, and when I did, they were miraculously cured, or died, in order to provide the pathos for the plot. [...]

Disability representation is, thankfully, improving in children's novels, but there is still a long way to go. In adult fiction, however, it's still poor — **and that's where the SoA ADCI prize will come in.**

ALCS TOM-GALLON TRUST AWARD

For a short story of up to 5,000 words



An annual award for a short story, financed by a bequest made by Miss Nellie Tom-Gallon in memory of her brother and generously supported by the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) and Hawthornden Foundation. The winner will receive £2,000, the runner-up £1,000, and £500 is awarded to each of the shortlist (up to four authors).

Left: Joanne Harris announcing the winner of the 2022 ALCS Tom Gallon Trust Award at Southwark Cathedral (photograph © Adrian Pope)

Hawthornden Foundation was founded to provide a peaceful setting and supportive environment for creative writers to work without disturbance. Our mission is, foremost, to support exceptional contemporary writers of all kinds — poets, novelists, short-story writers, playwrights, scriptwriters, writers of creative non-fiction and essayists — and give them a refuge from the distractions and duties of daily life to allow them to concentrate fully on their writing. We hope to support writers from around the world, from diverse geographical, racial, ethnic, gender, age and other communities.



Hawthornden
Foundation

“I Cleaned The—’ gets everything right. Bold, brilliant writing, a strong story, and unforgettable characters. I loved the black humour, the subtle layers and themes, and all the unsaid things that made me think about it long after I’d finished. It’s the sort of story that you can read again and again and each time discover something new.”
— Claire Fuller, 2022 ALCS Tom-Gallon Trust Award judge

Right: Kanya D’Almeida winner of the 2022 ALCS Tom-Gallon Trust Award for ‘I Cleaned The ___’
(photograph © Malaka MP)



Entry Criteria:

- Applicants must be ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, Commonwealth, or the Republic of Ireland
- Applicants must have had at least one short story accepted for publication
- Submissions must be in English and must not be a translation
- Submissions may be published or unpublished
- Submissions must not have been previously submitted for the ALCS Tom-Gallon Trust Award
- Submissions must be a maximum of 5,000 words.

BETTY TRASK PRIZE

For first novels by authors under 35

Betty Trask left a bequest to the Society of Authors in 1983 to fund prizes for first novels written by authors under the age of 35 in a traditional or romantic style.

Each year a single prize winner receives £10,000 and the remaining fund is split between the shortlist.

Entry Criteria:

- Applicants must be under the age of 35
- Applicants must be resident in Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the Commonwealth for three years prior to the date of submission for the award, or a British National
- Applicants must not have had any other adult novel published
- Submissions must be in English and must not be a translation
- Submissions must be of a romantic or traditional nature (i.e. not experimental)
- If unpublished, the work must not have been previously submitted for the Betty Trask Prize.



The 2022 Betty Trask Prize shortlist
(photograph © Natalie Thorpe)

'This is a simply devastating vision of contemporary loneliness, a book that will leave you gasping for air by the time you finish it. The speed with which we agreed on the winner speaks to quite what an exceptional debut this is. I feel hugely privileged to have read it, delighted to award it at the Betty Trask Prize this year.' — Alex Preston, about the 2022 Betty Trask Prize Winner *IN: The Graphic Novel* by Will McPhail



Above: (From left to right) Joanne Harris with Caleb Azumah Nelson and A K. Blakemore (Betty Trask Award winners) and Lemn Sissay at Southwark Cathedral. (photograph © Adrian Pope)



(From left to right) Lemn Sissay, Will McPhail (2022 Betty Trask Prize winner) and Joanne Harris at Southwark Cathedral. (photograph © Adrian Pope)

CHOLMONDELEY AWARDS

Recognising the achievement and distinction of individual poets

The Cholmondeley Awards for poets were founded by the late Dowager Marchioness of Cholmondeley in 1966 to recognise the achievement and distinction of individual poets.

The Cholmondeley Awards are honorary awards and submissions are not accepted. Recipients are chosen by the Awards Committee for their general body of work and contribution to poetry.

Below left: (From left to right) Joanne Harris with David Kinloch, Tiffany Atkinson and Menna Elfyn (2022 Cholmondeley Award winners) and Lemn Sissay at Southwark Cathedral (photography © Adrian Pope)



ERIC GREGORY AWARDS

For a collection by poets under the age of 30

The Eric Gregory Awards, for a collection by poets under the age of 30, were founded in 1960 by the late Dr Eric Gregory for the encouragement of young poets.



Above: (From left to right) Joanne Harris with Joe Carrick-Varty, Rhiya Pau, Jack Cooper, Daniella Fearon, Courtney Conrad, Maisie Newman and Stephanie Sy-Quia (2022 Eric Gregory Award winners) and Lemn Sissay at Southwark Cathedral (photograph © Adrian Pope)

Entry Criteria:

- Applicants must be under the age of 30
- Applications must be a British National, or resident in Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the Commonwealth for three years prior to the date of submission for the award
- Submissions must be in English
- Submissions may be a published or unpublished volume of poetry, drama-poems or belles-lettres
- Submissions must be no more than 30 poems
- Submissions must not have been previously submitted for the Eric Gregory Awards.

THE MCKITTERICK PRIZE

For a first novel by an author over 40

Tom McKitterick, the former editor of Political Quarterly and author of an unpublished novel, endowed the McKitterick Prize which was first awarded in 1990. It is also generously supported by Hawthornden Foundation. It is given annually to an author over the age of 40 for a first novel, published or unpublished.

The prize money is £4,000 for the winner and £2,000 for the runner-up, with each shortlisted author receiving £1,000 (up to four authors).



Entry criteria:

- Applicants must be living and over the age of 40
- Applicants must not have had any other novel published (excluding works for children)
- Submissions must be a full length novel in the English language by one author
- Submissions must be a work of 'fiction or imagination or substantially of fiction or imagination'
- If unpublished, the work must not have been previously submitted for the McKitterick Prize.

Left: Southwark Cathedral, venue of the 2022 SoA Awards (photograph © Adrian Pope)



Above: (From left to right) Joanne Harris with David Annand (2022 McKitterick Prize winner) and Lemn Sissay at Southwark Cathedral (photograph © Adrian Pope)



The 2022 McKitterick Prize shortlist
(photography © Natalie Thorpe)

'A powerful, accomplished novel. In Peterdown buildings are fought over and characters' morality is tested with every twist in the plot. In this celebration of no-glory heroics Annand provides a state of the nation novel rich with compassion and intelligence.'
—Selma Dabbagh,
2022 McKitterick Prize judge

PAUL TORDAY MEMORIAL PRIZE

For a first novel by an author over 60

Paul Torday published his first novel *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* aged 60. The family decided to set up this prize in Paul Torday's honour, celebrating first novels by authors aged 60 or over.

The winner will receive £3,000, with a set of Paul Torday's collected works. Runners-up will receive £1,000 and one specially selected Paul Torday novel with a commemorative book plate. The prize is indebted to Weidenfeld & Nicolson Fiction for generously providing these books by Paul Torday.



Above: Paul Torday
(photograph © Murdo Macleod)

Entry criteria:

- The novel must be a full length work by a living author
- The book must be in the English language and cannot be a translated work
- The novel must be the author's first published full length fiction work, but they can have had works published of other lengths or other genres in the past
- The author(s) must be aged 60 or over at the date of first print publication of the novel and living at the date of submission
- There are no residence or nationality restrictions
- We cannot accept books that are only available in e-format or that are self-published or where the author has contributed or paid for the costs of publishing
- Submissions must be made by the print publisher.



Above: (From left to right) Joanne Harris with Jane Fraser (2022 Paul Torday winner) and Lemn Sissay at Southwark Cathedral (photograph © Adrian Pope)

'Judging the Paul Torday Prize was like embarking on an exploration of the world, both in its past and present shapes and forms. It took me to a wide range of times and places, to edges of both history and humanity where I had rarely stepped before. I felt both enriched and honoured by many of my encounters during the experience.'
—Donald S. Murray,
2022 Paul Torday Prize judge

W&N


THE PAUL TORDAY
MEMORIAL PRIZE
FOR DEBUT NOVELISTS OVER 60

THE QUEEN'S KNICKERS AWARD

For an outstanding children's illustrated book

This annual prize, generously funded by Nicholas Allan, author of *The Queen's Knickers*, is awarded to an outstanding children's original illustrated book for ages 0-7. It will recognise books that strike a quirky, new note and grab the attention of a child, whether this be in the form of curiosity, amusement, horror or excitement.

The winner will receive £5,000, as well as a golden Queen's Knickers badge, as depicted in Nicholas Allan's original book.

The runner-up will receive £1,000 and a silvered badge.

Right: (From left to right) Joanne Harris with Alastair Chisholm and David Roberts (2022 Queen's Knickers Award winners) and Mick Jackson (2022 Queen's Knickers Award runner-up) and Lemn Sissay at Southwark Cathedral (photograph © Adrian Pope)



'STORIES AS GOLD DUST'

Nicholas Allan talks about his love of stories and founding the Queen's Knickers Award

The Queen's Knickers Award is for an outstanding original illustrated book for ages 0-7, that strikes a 'quirky, new note and grabs the attention of a child'. Why did you decide to set up this prize?

I want to encourage authors and illustrators to take more risks and have more fun. The name of the award reflects how I felt when I began writing the book from which the name is taken. I started it purely for fun, without any sense of plot, moral, purpose — in fact, without sense, and maintained it to the end.

What do you think makes a good (or an outstanding) children's book? What are the dos and don'ts for writing one?

An idea that no one has thought of before, or linking of disparate ideas, but one that will provoke children's interest. Then, the quickest way of expressing it in pictures and/ or words. If there are several ways, I use Occam's Razor. Sometimes a picture works without words, other times it's the other way around. It's whatever works best for the story.



Entry criteria:

- The work should be a single, illustrated volume, in book form. It can be imaginative or factual e.g. a counting book
- The work may be any combination of words and/or pictures, or just pictures (and in any physical format including pop ups, flap books and board books)
- The prize will be awarded to an author or authors who is/are credited on the title page and are real people. For works illustrated by named illustrator/illustrators, the judges may divide the prize between the author/authors and illustrator/illustrators at their discretion
- We cannot accept entries that are only available in e-format or that are self-published or where the author has contributed or paid for the costs of publishing
- Submissions must be made by the print publisher and publishers may submit no more than three titles per imprint.

SOMERSET MAUGHAM AWARDS

*Enabling young writers to enrich their work through
experience of foreign countries*

W. Somerset Maugham set up a fund in 1947 to enable young writers to enrich their work by gaining experience of foreign countries. The awards are given for a published work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry.

The winners of the 2022 Somerset Maugham Awards



Entry criteria:

- The author must be a British national, or resident in Great Britain and Northern Ireland for three years prior to the date of submission for the award, and writing in English
- The work submitted must be a full-length book and have been first published in Britain
- The work submitted may be poetry, fiction, criticism, biography, history, philosophy, belles-lettres or a travel book. Dramatic works are not eligible.



Above: (From left to right) Joanne Harris with Lucia Osborne Crowley, Tice Cin and Caleb Azumah Nelson (2022 Somerset Maugham Awards winners) and Lemn Sissay at Southwark Cathedral (photograph © Adrian Pope)

TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIPS

Enabling writers to keep in touch with their colleagues abroad

The Travelling Scholarships were established in 1944 to enable British creative writers to keep in touch with their colleagues abroad. As directed by the anonymous founder of the trust, the Scholarships are administered by the SoA and recipients are nominated by the assessors for the year. Applications for the awards are not accepted.



Above: Alice Albinia, winner of a 2022 Travelling Scholarship (photograph © Adrian Pope)



Left: (From left to right) Joanne Harris with Alice Albinia, Ayisha Malik, Maame Blue, Ben Judah and Dylan Moore (2022 Travelling Scholarships winners) and Lemn Sissay at Southwark Cathedral (photograph © Adrian Pope)

BECOME A MEMBER



(All photography © Adrian Pope)

Each one of our shortlisted authors receives a free one year membership to the SoA.

Although you do not need to be a member to be eligible for our prizes, joining the Society of Authors gives you access to a wide range of benefits. Find out more at: [**societyofauthors.org/join**](https://societyofauthors.org/join)



***‘Joining the SoA at the start of my writing career was one of the best decisions I ever made.’
—Malorie Blackman***

THE GORDON BOWKER VOLCANO PRIZE

For a novel focusing on the experience of travel away from home

In memory of Malcolm Lowry and endowed by Gordon Bowker, his biographer, and Ramdei Bowker. A prize awarded to a UK or Irish writer, or a writer currently resident in those countries, for a novel focusing on the experience of travel away from home. Inspired by Malcolm Lowry's novel, *Under the Volcano* and in celebration of its author, the prize aims to inspire literary excellence and encourage writers to travel and to write from the resulting experience. The winner will receive £2,000 and the runner-up £750.

Entry criteria:

- The novel must be a full length work in the English language by one living author (not a translation, and not a work for children).
- The author must be British or Irish, or be currently resident in the UK or Ireland at the time of submission to the prize.
- We cannot accept books that are only available in e-format or that are self-published or where the author has contributed or paid for the costs of publishing.
- Submissions must be made by the print publisher and are limited to two submissions per imprint. Publishers are invited to submit a maximum of one additional call-in title.



Above: Malcolm Lowry
(photograph © Rex)



Right: (From left to right) Joanne Harris with Jamie O'Connell (2022 Gordon Bowker Volcano Prize runner-up) and Lemn Sissay. (photograph © Adrian Pope)

Below: Sheila Llewellyn (2022 Gordon Bowker Volcano Prize winner) and her book *Winter in Tabriz*. (photograph © Malachi O'Doherty)



'The novel stood out for the sophistication of its engagement with a country in upheaval, for its exploration of the risks and price of resistance, and for its honesty about being a foreigner with an escape route from someone else's history.'
—Caroline Brothers, 2022 Gordon Bowker Volcano Prize judge, about *Winter in Tabriz* by Sheila Llewellyn

WITH THANKS TO

The SoA Awards ceremony is generously supported by the **Author's Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS)**.

The **Author's Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS)** is a not-for-profit organisation started by writers for the benefit of all types of writers. Owned by its members, ALCS collects money due for secondary uses of writer's work. It is designed to support authors and their creativity, ensure they receive fair payment and see their rights are respected. It promotes and teaches the principles of copyright and campaigns for a fair deal. It represents over 100,000 members, and since 1977 has paid around £500 million to writers. Find out more at: alcs.co.uk.

The Society of Authors also proudly administers the following prizes:

- The Imison Award and the Tinniswood Award (part of the BBC Audio Drama Awards)
Application deadline: First Sunday in October
- The ALCS Educational Writer's Award
- The Charlotte Aitken Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award

We also award translation prizes including: the Bernard Shaw Prize (Swedish), the Goethe-Institut Prize for New Translation (German extract), the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Prize (Japanese), the John Florio Prize (Italian), the Premio Valle Inclán (Spanish), the Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize (Arabic), the Schlegel-Tieck Prize (German), the Scott Moncrieff Prize (French), the TA First Prize (debut, any language), the TLS-Risa Domb/Porjes Prize (Hebrew) and the Vondel Prize (Dutch).

There are no submission fees for any of our prizes.

Get in touch

Please visit our website for more information at societyofauthors.org/prizes or email us at prizes@societyofauthors.org.

Photographs on pages 27 and 28 copyright Adrian Pope



