



Secretary's Report for November 2023 to April 2025

Following the AGM on 18 November 2023 at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh and online via Zoom, the Society of Authors in Scotland (SoAiS) Committee met online eleven times and was quorate each time. The dates of each meeting were: 7 December 2023, 25 January 2024, 4 April 2024, 23 May 2024, 11 July 2024, 26 August 2024, 10 October 2024, 7 November 2024, 19 December 2024, 30 January 2025 and 27 March 2025.

During 2024, the SoAiS committee farewelled Claire Watts who stepped down as Chair and committee member in late August. We also farewelled committee members Susi Briggs in January, Sumayya Usmani in May and Tita Berredo in November.

We were able to co-opt Ray Anyasi to the committee in January 2024.

Following Claire stepping down as Chair, Mary Paulson-Ellis and Helen Sedgwick put forward to the committee a proposal to stand as Co-chairs alongside a programme of work they would undertake if agreed. The committee agreed both proposals in August and they took on the role of Co-chairs in September 2024.

I volunteered to be the Secretary back at the meeting of 7 December 2023 and was elected unanimously by the committee. Looking back over the last year and a quarter, many changes initiated during 2022, 2023 and 2024 have seen the Secretary's role evolve. SoA staff member, Elizabeth Frattaroli, now takes the minutes at most committee meetings, which enables all the volunteers to contribute fully on committee business. As Secretary, I continue to prepare the agendas alongside the Co-chairs for each committee meeting.

At the 7 November 2024 committee meeting, I took on the role co-ordinating the material to be included in the quarterly newsletter and preparing the copy for *The Author*. Material is provided by all the committee members, the Senior Policy Manager, and includes a 'we asked, you said' section. These changes came into effect that month. The SoAiS quarterly newsletter goes out in the first week of February, May, August and November. This timetable aligns with the quarterly production of *The Author*.

The SoA Senior Policy Manager (Scotland) attends committee meetings regularly in a non-voting capacity. They provide information about campaigns, as well as taking part in discussions about issues of concern to members in Scotland. Heather Parry, who pioneered this role for the SoA, moved on from the position at the start of 2024, and after a SoA recruitment campaign, Sam Gonçalves took on the role. I would like to thank both Heather and Sam for their contributions to the SoAiS.

In an effort to prevent the SoAiS AGM from running close to the main SoA AGM, 3 April 2025 was agreed and set. The committee decided to hold the meeting online this year to enable more members to take part in the AGM.

It has been a year and a quarter of much change, with more on the way that promise to enable the SoAiS to work better to represent the SoA's members in Scotland.

SJ Groenewegen
Secretary, SoAiS