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ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

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MONIACK MHOR

SCOTLAND'S CREATIVE WRITING CENTRE

IONAD SGRÌOBHAIDH CHRUTHACHAIL NA H-ALBA

2020 PROGRAMME





“One of the most special places
I’ve ever been.”

**Sian Meades-Williams,
Course Participant 2019**

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by Shinsuke Sugino; Alan Warner by Gemma Day;
Map on page 39 drawn by Karen Sutherland



WELCOME

High in the hills above Inverness, Moniak Mhor Creative Writing Centre looks out over dramatic landscape, rests under big skies and offers the chance to view some spectacular Highland wildlife. Our cosy converted croft provides everyone that crosses the threshold with a home-from-home, one in which you have the time, space and support to focus on your writing.

Our programme this year, as ever, offers week-long writing courses, retreats and shorter courses across a range of genres, aimed at writers at all stages of the process. So, whether you have just recently developed a new notion for writing or have been working on your novel (or poems or memoir or plays or short stories) for some time, there'll be a course within these pages to help you on your writing journey.

This year, we have a strong theme of poetry running through our programme, and are delighted to be able to augment this activity over winter and spring 2020/21, helping to celebrate the life and work of Edwin Morgan at the centenary of his birth. We're trialling two new Continuing Professional Development Courses; one aimed at those working to promote both a love of poetry and to inspire the creation of new work (Poetry Ambassadors); and one aimed at helping those working with vulnerable young people, encouraging creativity and care when recording the events that shape young people's lives and inform their future (Ways With Words).

We hope that you find something within the pages of this brochure to inspire you. The team look forward to welcoming you through the door at Moniak Mhor and making your story part of ours.

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

Maya Angelou

ABOUT OUR COURSES

Whether you come for one day or a residential course or retreat, Moniack Mhor provides an atmosphere for you to fully immerse yourself in your writing. The centre is your home for the duration of your stay, free from distractions and where you will find yourself part of a nurturing writing community. Residential courses run with up to 14 participants.

The days' activities vary slightly by course. Those with the most contact time are the five-day courses focusing on a specific genre. On these courses there will be morning workshops, followed by tutorial sessions in the afternoon. On Tutored Retreats, there are no morning workshops, just tutorials for an in-depth look at your work and lots of writing time. Untutored Retreats offer the chance for uninterrupted writing time.

On most courses, centre staff will lead a walk in the local area. Often, people spend their free time reading, doing yoga in the straw bale studio, running, walking or cycling on the single-track roads and nearby forest tracks.

Evenings are spent in the company of the group. Normally, tutors read on a Tuesday evening and a guest reader visits on Wednesday. On Friday the week culminates by the fire, sharing the work you have created through the week in an informal ceilidh event.

Food is included in the price. You will find the kitchen well stocked; we aim to cater for any dietary requirements and we can get additional items if requested. Moniack Mhor staff will welcome you with a meal on the first night. Once during your stay, you will be part of a cooking team, preparing the evening meal for your fellow writers. Breakfast is 'help yourself', while lunch is served buffet style.

On some courses, tutors will read a sample of your work ahead of time to get a feel for your writing before you meet. Just look for the pre-submissions listing at the top of the course page.



HOW TO CHOOSE A COURSE

Moniack Mhor offers courses suitable for anyone who is writing, be it making final edits or taking those first steps to put words on a page.

If you are in the early stages of your writing life, starting out courses offer support, inspiration and tools to help the words flow. The majority of our courses will be suited to those at the beginning of their writing journey. Courses which are tailored to those working in certain genres are clearly indicated in the course description or title. If you are a more experienced writer, you may get more from a tutored retreat. These courses have a stronger focus on one-to-one sessions with the tutors, providing more time for in-depth feedback on your work or specific areas with which you may need help.

If you simply want to write, free from distractions, but surrounded by fellow writers, join us for a retreat. This year, in response to participant feedback, we're trialling the option of coming for two weeks rather than one.

If you can't spare the time for a full course, a shorter course or a day workshop will offer you a chance to immerse yourself in the writing community at Moniack Mhor.

Our tutors are established professionals who understand the needs of writers at all stages. They are generous with their time and experience. You will get more from a course led by a writer you admire, so if you are having difficulty choosing a course, reading some of the tutors' work may help you decide.



TUTORED COURSES

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

SINGLE ROOMS: £625
SHARED ROOMS: £575

Led by some of the finest writers from the UK and beyond, our tutored courses offer the chance to really focus in on your writing. With expert guidance from your tutors and the company of fellow writers, you can work in a supportive atmosphere to make real progress with your work.



FICTION

FINISHING THAT FIRST DRAFT

MONDAY 13TH — SATURDAY 18TH APRIL

WITH ADAM FOULDS & ALAN WARNER
GUEST MONICA ALI

After the first flurry of ideas, the excitement, writing a novel can become daunting with characters to develop and plots to engineer. This course will help you finish that first draft with workshops and tutorials on plot and character, on sharpening your descriptions, writing scenes and creating distinctive, propulsive, persuasive voices. Together we can get there.

Adam Foulds is a poet and novelist from London now resident in Toronto. He has been the recipient of a number of literary awards, including The Sunday Times Young Writer Of The Year, The Costa Poetry Prize, The Somerset Maugham Award, The South Bank Show Prize for Literature, The E. M. Forster Award, The Encore Award and The European Union Prize for Literature. His 2009 novel, *The Quickening Maze*, was shortlisted for The Man Booker Prize. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2010. His latest novel, *Dream Sequence*, was published early in 2019.

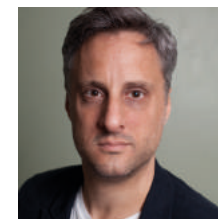
Alan Warner is the author of eight novels: *Morvern Callar* (now a film starring Samantha Morton), *These Demented Lands*, *The Sopranos* (adapted by Lee Hall with the title *Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour* for a National Theatre of Scotland and Live Theatre tour in 2015, and soon to be released in cinemas as *Our Ladies*, directed by Michael Caton-Jones), *The Man Who Walks*, *The Worms Can Carry Me To Heaven*, *Their Lips Talk of Mischief*, *The Stars in the Bright Sky*, which was longlisted for The Man Booker Prize 2010, and *The Deadman's Pedal*, which won The James Tait Black Prize 2013.

Monica Ali is an award-winning, bestselling writer whose work has been translated into 26 languages. Her debut novel, *Brick Lane*, was shortlisted for The Man Booker Prize and described by James Wood as "a great achievement of the subtlest storytelling". Monica was chosen as one of Granta's 2003 Best of Young British Novelists. She has judged a number of literary prizes including chairing The Asian Man Booker Prize. Her writing has appeared in numerous publications including *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*.

COURSE NO 16

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



SONGWRITING

SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE

MONDAY 20TH — SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

WITH BOO HEWERDINE & FINDLAY NAPIER
GUEST EMILY BARKER

Findlay Napier and Boo Hewerdine write songs from observations and real life experience. During this week-long course, you too can learn the power of turning narrative into song. You'll spend the week with these two storytellers, honing your writing skills, starting from the very basics to well-crafted, finished pieces. Joining us as our special guest will be Americana Awards singer of the year Emily Barker whose recent album *Sweet Kind Of Blue* is a beautiful example of this area of work.

Boo Hewerdine is a singer-songwriter and experienced tutor. He has written songs for Eddi Reader, k.d. lang, Chris Difford and many others. His latest album *Before* was released to great acclaim in 2019.

Findlay Napier is one of the finest singer songwriters and teaching artists in Scotland. His collaborations with Boo Hewerdine (*VIP* and *Glasgow*) brought his supreme songwriting and storytelling gifts, allied with magpie-minded imagination and magnificent vocals, to the attention of audiences across the UK, Europe and North America. Recently he has co-written and toured with Texan singer-songwriter Rebecca Loebe for their *Filthy Jokes* EP; with Bella Hardy and Greg Russell on *War and Peace* and with Megan Henwood on their *Story Song Scientist* project. As a teacher Findlay has run songwriting retreats at Moniak Mhor with Karine Polwart and in 2016 he set up the workshop-focused Glasgow Songwriting Festival.

Emily Barker is an award-winning singer-songwriter, perhaps best known as the writer and performer of the themes to two BBC crime dramas: *Wallander* starring Kenneth Branagh, and *The Shadow Line* starring Chiwetel Ejiofor. She has written with highly acclaimed artists such as Boo Hewerdine, Graham Gouldman, Kathryn Williams, Frank Turner, Romeo Stodart (*The Magic Numbers*) and most recently with English folk legend Marry Waterson and folktronica polymath Adem Ilhan resulting in her latest release *A Window to Other Ways*, out now on One Little Indian Records.

COURSE NO 17

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



POETRY

MAKE YOUR WORDS COME ALIVE

MONDAY 27TH APRIL — SATURDAY 2ND MAY

WITH EFE PAUL AZINO & JO BELL
GUEST ERIN MAY KELLY

How do you make your words come alive? Through workshops and tutorials your tutors will help you shape, shift and lift your words to enable confidence on and off the page. This course is suitable for all poets - those who perform their work, as well as those who are happy to leave it on the page.

Efe Paul Azino co-founded and currently directs the Lagos International Poetry Festival. He is also the director of poetry at the Lagos Book and Art Festival. In 2017 he was named one of the most powerful people in Nigerian art and culture by YNaija. Efe published his first collection of poetry, *For Broken Men Who Cross Often* (Farafina Books) in 2015. He has appeared at a number of international festivals, and his poems have been translated into Afrikaans, French, German and Mandarin. His second poetry collection, *The Tragedy of Falling with Laughter Stuck in Your Throat*, was published in 2019.

Jo Bell is described by Carol Ann Duffy as "one of the most exciting poets now writing". Her awards include The Charles Causley Prize and The Manchester Cathedral Prize. Formerly director of National Poetry Day and the UK's first Canal Laureate, she works across the UK. In her writing she aims for an absolutely unsentimental tenderness, and her teaching is marked by a "robust kindness". Her global workshop project 52 won a Saboteur Award in 2015.

Erin May Kelly is a Scottish writer and performance poet. She writes for the BBC Social, where she shares her videos such as *Little Girls*, which quickly became one of the most viewed videos to come out of Scotland. She is the winner of the Write to End Violence Against Women Awards 2018, and was nominated for The Royal Television Society Awards 2019.

COURSE NO 18

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



WRITING FOR YOUNG ADULTS

MONDAY 11TH — SATURDAY 16TH MAY

WITH MELVIN BURGESS & PATRICE LAWRENCE
GUEST TANYA LANDMAN

Are you passionate about writing fiction with young adult protagonists? This week will give you the motivation you need to develop your knowledge and skills. Through individual and group exercises, plus individual tutorials, you will explore ways to create and develop authentic and relatable characters and story arcs, find your narrative voice, write compelling beginnings and tackle controversial and sensitive issues.

Melvin Burgess was born in 1954 and was brought up in Sussex and Berkshire. He started writing in his twenties, and wrote on and off for 15 years before having his first book, *The Cry of the Wolf*, published in 1990. In 1997 his controversial bestseller *Junk* won The Guardian Children's Fiction Award and The Carnegie Medal (a prize for which four of his novels have been shortlisted). *Junk* was also shortlisted for The Whitbread Children's Book of the Year 1998. *The Guardian* has described him as the godfather of YA fiction.

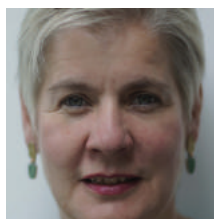
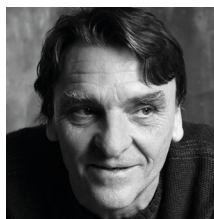
Patrice Lawrence is an award-winning writer for children and young people. Her debut YA novel, *Orangeboy*, won The Bookseller YA Prize and The Waterstones Prize for Older Children's Fiction, and was shortlisted for The Costa Children's Book Award. *Indigo Donut* won The Bristol Crimefest YA prize. Her recent books include *Toad Attack* for younger readers and *Diver's Daughter*, inspired by UK Black and Asian history. Patrice has contributed to several short story anthologies including *Malory Towers: New Class of Malory Towers*. Her third YA novel *Rose, Interrupted* was published in July 2019.

Tanya Landman is the author of more than 40 books. Born and brought up in Kent, she now lives and works in Bideford and the nearby coastline was the inspiration for her *Flotsam & Jetsam* series. As well as being shortlisted for several UK awards, the US edition of *Apache* won a Borders Original Voices prize and a Spur award from the Western Writers of America. *Buffalo Soldier* won the 2015 Carnegie Medal. *Hell and High Water* was shortlisted for the The Guardian Children's Fiction Prize 2016 and nominated for The Carnegie Medal. Her latest book *One Shot* is inspired by the early life of sharpshooter Annie Oakley.

COURSE NO 20

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



MEMOIR TELLING YOUR STORY

MONDAY 18TH — SATURDAY 23RD MAY

WITH COLIN GRANT & CHITRA RAMASWAMY
GUEST SHAUN BYTHELL

What's the heart of your story and how might you find the voice in which to tell it? What techniques can you use to anchor a narrative so it feels true to your lived experience? In this practical and immersive course on the art of writing memoir, Chitra Ramaswamy and Colin Grant will guide you through the process of constructing your story, offering tips and hacks on voice, structure and what to leave in and take out when telling the story of your life.

Colin Grant is an author, historian and Associate Fellow in the Centre for Caribbean Studies. His five books include the memoir, *Bageye at the Wheel*, which was shortlisted for The Pen/Ackerley Prize, 2013. Grant's history of epilepsy, *A Smell of Burning*, was a *Sunday Times* Book of the Year 2016. As a producer for the BBC, Grant directed several radio drama documentaries including *A Fountain of Tears: The Murder of Federico Garcia Lorca*. He also writes for numerous publications including *The Guardian*, *TLS* and *The New York Review of Books*. Grant's latest book is *Homecoming: Voices of the Windrush Generation*.

Chitra Ramaswamy is an award-winning journalist and author. Her first book, *Expecting: The Inner Life of Pregnancy*, was published by Saraband in April 2016. It won The Saltire First Book of the Year Award and was shortlisted for The Polari Prize. She has essays in *Nasty Women*, *The Freedom Papers* and *The Bible*. She writes mainly for *The Guardian*, is a columnist for the National Trust for Scotland and Holyrood magazines, and broadcasts regularly for BBC Radio Scotland. She lives in Edinburgh with her partner, two young children and rescue dog and is currently working on her second book.

Shaun Bythell runs Wigtown's The Bookshop, the largest second-hand bookshop in Scotland set in its only officially designated 'National Book Town'. When not working amongst The Bookshop's mile of shelving, Shaun's hobbies include eavesdropping on customers, uploading book-themed re-workings of Sugarhill Gang songs to YouTube and shooting Amazon Kindles in the wild.

COURSE NO 21

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS
PRE-COURSE SUBMISSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



WRITING THE MUSIC

TUTORED RETREAT

MONDAY 8TH — SATURDAY 13TH JUNE

WITH MICHEL FABER & LOUISA YOUNG
GUEST KATHRYN WILLIAMS

This tutored writing retreat will focus on music and the many ways it can inspire writing – not just as subject matter, but as a close creative companion, whether you're listening to it, making it, thinking about it, using it as a setting and a mood, or as part of your language. Come to find your rhythm and your voice, unravel your ideas, craft harmonious developments, and cut away excess noise from prelude to finale so that your work can sing. Tutors Michel and Louisa will be there to help you, with individual tutorials and the alchemy of being with other writers. Inspiration guaranteed. Suitable for writers of fiction and non-fiction, particularly those with a work in progress – which might be music-connected, but doesn't have to be.

Michel Faber is the author of 10 books including the novels *The Crimson Petal and The White*, *Under The Skin* and *The Book of Strange New Things*, the short story collections *Some Rain Must Fall* and *The Fahrenheit Twins* and the poetry collection *Undying*. His first novel for Young Adults, *D (A Tale of Two Worlds)* was published in 2019. He has written fiction about choirs and death metal bands, and is working on a non-fiction book about music that nobody likes.

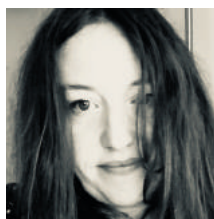
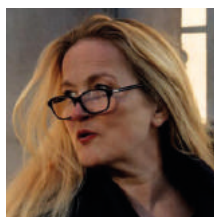
Louisa Young is a writer and songwriter. Her 11 novels include the award-winning *My Dear I Wanted to Tell You* trilogy. She's half of the children's author Zizou Corder (with her daughter Isabel Adomakoh Young) and half of the band Birds of Britain (with Alex Mackenzie). She's a Londoner, a former journalist, a singer, a feminist, a reader and "a masterly storyteller" (*The Washington Post*). Her most recent book is a memoir, *You Left Early: A True Story of Love and Alcohol*, about her relationship with the composer Robert Lockhart. Her debut album with her band Birds of Britain is also called *You Left Early*.

Kathryn Williams won a Mercury Music Prize nomination and a major label deal with her second album. Twenty years on she is still releasing critically acclaimed albums. She released a beautifully illustrated 20-CD box set, *Anthology*, in 2019. In 2018 she collaborated with author Laura Barnett, setting the lyrics from Laura's book *Greatest Hits* to music for a separately released studio album. Kathryn tutors at Arvon, Moniac Mhor and The Writing Squad, and writes for and with many artists around the world.

COURSE NO 24

ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



WRITING AND WALKING

MONDAY 22ND — SATURDAY 27TH JUNE

WITH MADELEINE BUNTING & CHRIS STEWART
GUEST NEIL ANSELL

Taking advantage of Moniac Mhor's beautiful setting, this course will take you out into the hills and glens around the centre, using the landscape and local history to inspire some great new writing. Back at the centre your tutors will lead workshops and tutorials, providing you with the tools to craft your experiences into engaging writing, in a supportive and friendly atmosphere. A good, general level of fitness is required for participants on this course.

Madeleine Bunting is the prize-winning author of four works of non-fiction, most recently *Love of Country: A Hebridean Journey* which was shortlisted for The Saltire Prize; her first novel, *Island Song*, was published by Granta in April 2019. Her next book, *Labour of Love*, will be published in September 2020. She is a regular essayist on BBC Radio Three, with series recently on care, attention and home. She was a columnist and associate editor at *The Guardian* until 2013. She has taught creative writing at Cambridge and is a judge on the British Academy Al Rodhan Prize for non-fiction. She lives in East London.

Chris Stewart grew up in Sussex where, having taken a gap year between school and university, he worked on farms and as a sheep shearer. This he liked so much that he abandoned the idea of university and got stuck into reading the books he wanted to read. Round about the middle of the road of life he moved to a farm in the mountains of Andalucía, where he was persuaded – against his better judgement – to write a book about his experiences. The book, *Driving Over Lemons*, was rather successful. Thus he discovered his vocation and has since published a further four titles.

As a young man, **Neil Ansell** spent years hitchhiking around the world, visiting over 50 countries, including two years spent working as a forestry worker in Sweden. Back home, he has worked with homeless people – and experienced homelessness himself – before working for BBC television, specialising in undercover investigations and secret filming. He is now the author of three nature and travel memoirs detailing experiences such as spending five years alone in a remote cottage without services in the hills of mid-Wales. His most recent book, *The Last Wilderness* was shortlisted for The Wainwright Prize for nature writing and The Highland Book Prize.

COURSE 26

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS
TWO WALKS
PRE-COURSE SUBMISSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £685
SHARED ROOM: £635



FICTION

TUTORED RETREAT

MONDAY 13TH — SATURDAY 18TH JULY

WITH KAMILA SHAMSIE & GILLIAN SLOVO
GUEST JENNY BROWN

This tutored retreat, most suited to people who have a work in progress, will give you time to write and meet with fellow writers, and also time to discuss your ideas with Gillian and Kamila, who can help break any log jams that you might have encountered. They will talk with you about story and plot, about the effectiveness of voice and point of view and let their experience in their own fictional worlds aid you in yours.

Kamila Shamsie is the author of seven novels, which have been translated into over 20 languages. Her most recent novel, *Home Fire*, won The Women's Prize for Fiction, was shortlisted for The Costa Novel Award and long-listed for The Man Booker Prize; *Burnt Shadows* was shortlisted for The Orange Prize for Fiction and *A God in Every Stone* was shortlisted for The Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists, she grew up in Karachi, and now lives in London.

Gillian Slovo has published 13 novels and a family memoir. Her novel *Red Dust* was made into a film starring Hilary Swank and Chiwetel Ejiofor and won France's Temoin du Monde prize while *Ice Road* was shortlisted for The Orange Prize. Gillian has also produced four verbatim plays, the last one of which, *Another World*, played at the National Theatre. She is currently working on a verbatim play, for The National Theatre, on the fire at Grenfell Tower.

Jenny Brown founded Jenny Brown Associates in 2002, and now represents 50 writers of literary fiction, narrative non-fiction and crime writing. She was formerly first Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival and Head of Literature at the Scottish Arts Council.

COURSE NO 29

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



POETRY

DEVELOPING NEW HABITS

MONDAY 20TH — SATURDAY 25TH JULY

WITH JACOB POLLEY & JEAN SPRACKLAND
GUEST IFOR AP GLYN

To get you writing and reading in fresh ways, this course will focus on generating new work through different 'habits of art'. As well as re-writing, re-reading and re-thinking, we will be celebrating the sheer joy of the best words in the best order.

Jacob Polley won the 2016 T.S. Eliot Prize for poetry for his fourth book of poems, *Jackself*. He is Professor of Creative Writing at Newcastle University and lives with his family on the North East coast.

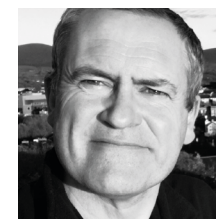
Jean Sprackland has published five poetry collections, most recently *Green Noise*. Her collection *Tilt* was the winner of The Costa Poetry Award in 2008. She is also the author of two non-fiction books: *Strands* and *These Silent Mansions*. Jean is Professor of Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Ifor ap Glyn has been the National Poet of Wales since 2016 and has won two crowns at the Welsh National Eisteddfod. He writes in Welsh and is translated into over a dozen languages and regularly performs his work around the world. Ifor was brought up in the Welsh community in London, but now lives and works in Caernarfon. He is the author of five collections of poems, a novel and several pieces for theatre. He also works as a television producer and presenter for S4C and BBC.

COURSE NO 30

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



PLAYWRITING

CRAFT AND INSPIRATION

MONDAY 10TH — SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST

WITH MATT HARTLEY & AMY ROSENTHAL
GUEST MARK ROSENBLATT

What makes a cracking piece of theatre? How do you find your voice as a playwright? How might you begin to think about story, action and plot? How can character and location inform your ideas? In a course aimed at new and developing writers, we'll look at these questions and more, exploring dramatic structure and how to work it to your advantage, balancing craft with inspiration, and taking your play from first to final draft.

Matt Hartley's first play *Sixty Five Miles* won a Bruntwood Award and since then he has forged a career writing for theatre, television and radio. His theatre work has been performed at venues including Shakespeare's Globe (*Eyam*), Royal Shakespeare Company (*Myth*), Hampstead Theatre (*Deposit*) and Pentabus Theatre (*Here I Belong*) and is regularly produced and revived internationally. Matt is a frequent writing tutor for venues including: National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Sherman Theatre and The Bristol Old Vic. Matt is currently creating new shows for venues including: Wales Millennium Centre, Sherman Theatre, Hampstead Theatre and the Leeds Playhouse.

Amy Rosenthal has written extensively for stage and radio and her work has been performed internationally. Plays include *Sitting Pretty*, *Henna Night* and *On The Rocks* (shortlisted for The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for female dramatists). Her new play *The Party Girls*, about the infamous Mitford sisters, will tour the UK in autumn 2020. Amy is currently working on an audio-dramatisation of a novel, *The Time of Ostriches*, and is under commission to Hampstead Theatre. She is a part-time lecturer on the Creative Writing BA at Birkbeck College.

Mark Rosenblatt is a theatre director and filmmaker. He has spent 20 years directing new and classic plays around the UK as well as in New York and Japan. He was Studio Associate at the National Theatre from 2011-13 and Associate Director of Leeds Playhouse from 2013-16. In 2008 he met a man on the tube who turned out to be a film producer who got him started writing screenplays. *Making Noise Quietly*, for which he co-wrote the screenplay, opened in UK cinemas in 2019, and he recently directed his first original short screenplay, *Ganef*, which is currently on the international festival circuit.

www.markrosenblatt.com

COURSE NO 33

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



CRIME

CREATING SUSPENSE

MONDAY 24TH — SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST

WITH YRSA SIGURDARDÓTTIR & LAURA WILSON
GUEST CHRISTOPHER BROOKMYRE

How do you hook a reader's attention and create suspense? If you already have a criminal idea that you want to put on the page, this course is for you ... but it will also help those searching for inspiration. Through discussion, workshops and practical exercises, the opportunities offered by the genre will be explored, with emphasis on the important elements of setting, character, plot and tension.

Yrsa Sigurdardóttir (b. 1963) is an award-winning, No. 1 best-selling Icelandic crime fiction author. Sigurdardóttir made her crime fiction debut in 2005 with *Last Rituals*, the first instalment in the Thóra Gudmundsdóttir series. She has since gone on to write a number of acclaimed stand-alone thriller novels, and is to date translated into more than 30 languages. With *The Legacy*, the first novel in the award-winning series about child psychologist Freyja and police detective Huldar, Yrsa Sigurdardóttir has consolidated her position as one of the finest crime writers of our time, and a master storyteller at the top of her game.

As well as being a critically acclaimed crime writer, **Laura Wilson** is *The Guardian's* crime fiction reviewer. Her fifth novel, *The Lover*, won The French Prix du Polar Européen, and her seventh, *Stratton's War* (the first book in a series set in the 1940s featuring DI Ted Stratton) won The Crime Writers' Association's Ellis Peters Award. Her latest novel is *The Other Woman*. She has taught on the Crime/Thriller MA course at City University, London and written a series of Crime Fiction Masterclass columns for *Mslaxia* magazine. She is a member of the Killer Women collective of female crime writers.

Christopher Brookmyre was born in Glasgow in 1968 and educated at Glasgow University, where he earned an MA (Hons) in English and Theatre. He worked as a sub-editor in London and Edinburgh prior to the publication of his first novel, *Quite Ugly One Morning*, which won The First Blood Award in 1996 for the best first crime novel of the year. He has written more than 20 novels since, including *Black Widow*, which won The McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Novel of the Year 2016 and was named The Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year 2017. He has co-written two historical novels with his wife, Dr Marisa Haetzman, under the pseudonym Ambrose Parry.

COURSE NO 35

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



STARTING OUT IN FICTION

MONDAY 7TH — SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

WITH KARIN ALTENBERG & ANDREW MILLER
GUEST ANDREW O'HAGAN

If you think you have the writing bug but you're unsure how to get started, Karin and Andrew will guide you through that difficult space between wanting and doing, the ambition and the act. With a mix of daily workshops and opportunities for one-to-ones with the tutors, you will, from the first evening, find yourself being drawn into the grand adventure of writing. No one need feel intimidated. The atmosphere will be one of friendliness and support, a creative balance between the solitary and social, between hard work and fun.

Karin Altenberg has written three novels – *Island of Wings*, *Breaking Light* and *A Legend of Rivers*. She is a reviewer of fiction and non-fiction for the *WSJ*, and a published translator of poetry, non-fiction and fiction from Swedish into English. Altenberg is a Fellow at the Robert H. Smith International Centre for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, US, and an Eccles Centre Makin Fellow at the British Library. Born and brought up in southern Sweden, Karin moved to Britain to study in 1996 and holds a PhD in Archaeology.

Andrew Miller's first novel, *Ingenious Pain*, won The James Tait Black Memorial Prize, The International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and The Grinzane Cavour Prize for the best foreign novel published in Italy. It was followed by *Casanova*, *Oxygen*, which was shortlisted for The Booker Prize and Whitbread Novel of the Year Award in 2001, *The Optimists*, *One Morning Like A Bird*, *Pure*, which won The Costa Book of the Year Award 2011, and *The Crossing*. His novel *Now We Shall Be Entirely Free* won the Highland Book Prize 2018 and was shortlisted for The Walter Scott Prize.

Andrew O'Hagan is a Scottish novelist and essayist. His work has been nominated for The Booker Prize and he is the winner of numerous awards, including the E.M. Forster Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is Editor-at-Large of *The London Review of Books* and Visiting Professor of Writing at King's College. Andrew's latest novel *Mayflies* was published by Faber & Faber.

COURSE NO 37

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



POETRY

WHERE DO POEMS COME FROM?

MONDAY 14TH — SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

WITH NIAL CAMPBELL & PASCALE PETIT
GUEST SINÉAD MORRISSEY

Rainer Maria Rilke wrote: "Go into yourself. Search for the reason that bids you write. This above all, ask yourself in the stillest hour of your night: Must I write?"

Are there poems you must write, that you'd like to go deeper, wilder or longer with? There might be a sequence or a story that you must tell. Niall and Pascale will share their writing experience and help you find strategies to write your truth and make it compelling to the reader. Using exercises and games, they'll show how poems can arrive from reading other poems, looking at the natural world, art, myth or from playing with images and language.

Niall Campbell is a poet originally from South Uist, one of the Western Isles. *Moontide*, his first collection, was named inaugural winner of The Edwin Morgan Poetry Award and Saltire First Book of the Year. *Moontide* was also shortlisted for The Forward and The Aldeburgh Best First Collection Prizes. His second collection, *Noctuary*, was published by Bloodaxe Books in spring 2019.

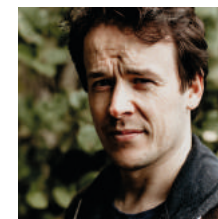
Pascale Petit was born in Paris, grew up in France and Wales and lives in Cornwall. She is of French/Welsh/Indian heritage. Her eighth collection, *Tiger Girl*, won a Royal Society of Literature 'Literature Matters' award while in progress. Her seventh collection of poetry, *Mama Amazonica*, won The Royal Society of Literature's Ondaatje Prize 2018 – the first time a poetry book has won this prize for a work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry best evoking the spirit of a place – and was shortlisted for The Roehampton Poetry Prize 2018. Four of her previous collections have been shortlisted for The T.S. Eliot Prize.

Sinéad Morrissey is the author of six poetry collections and is currently Professor of Creative Writing and Director of the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts at Newcastle University. Her awards include first prize in the UK National Poetry Competition, a Lannan Literary Fellowship and The E.M. Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. *Through the Square Window* (2009) and *Parallax* (2013) received The Irish Times Poetry Prize. She was the winner of The T.S. Eliot Prize in 2013 and the Forward Prize in 2017. In 2013, she was appointed Belfast's inaugural Poet Laureate.

COURSE NO 38

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS
PRE-COURSE SUBMISSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



SHORT STORY

EXPLORING THE FANTASTIC

MONDAY 26TH — SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

WITH ZOE GILBERT & ADAM MAREK
GUEST A. L. KENNEDY

Writers like George Saunders, Angela Carter, Kafka and Margaret Atwood all combine the fantastic with the every-day to explore deep human truths. The short story is an ideal form to explore the fantastic – its brevity allows huge creative freedom, experimentation and inventive metaphor-making. So, how can you bring elements of science fiction, folklore, fantasy and the uncanny into your own short stories to create deep meaning that speaks to readers? Together we'll do a deep dive into short story craft and techniques, focussing on the fantastic. Whether you're a beginner or a pro, you'll soon be writing stories that reveal human drama through the lens of the weird.

Zoe Gilbert's short stories have been published widely in journals and anthologies, broadcast on BBC radio and won prizes including The Costa Short Story Award. Her first book, *Folk* (Bloomsbury, 2018), was shortlisted for The International Dylan Thomas Prize 2019. She has travelled to China and South Korea on writing projects for the British Council, and is completing a PhD exploring folk tales in new short fiction. She is the co-director of London Lit Lab.

Adam Marek is the author of two short story collections: *Instruction Manual For Swallowing* and *The Stone Thrower*. His work has appeared on BBC Radio 4, and was selected for The Penguin Book of the British Short Story. He won the 2011 Arts Foundation Short Story Fellowship, and has been shortlisted for the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award and the Edge Hill Short Story Prize. He regularly teaches creative writing, and occasionally works with SciFutures, using storytelling to help prototype the future.
www.adammarek.co.uk

A. L. Kennedy has won a variety of UK and international book awards, including a Lannan Award, The Costa Prize, The Heinrich Heine Preis, The Somerset Maugham Award and The John Llewellyn Rees Prize. She has twice been included on the *Granta* Best of Young British Novelists list. She has written nine novels, six short story collections, three books of non fiction and three books for children. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a member of the Akademie der Kunst.

COURSE NO 44

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



PICTURE BOOKS

FIND YOUR INSPIRATION

MONDAY 2ND — SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

WITH SARAH MCINTYRE & JAMES MAYHEW
GUEST VIVIAN FRENCH

Sarah McIntyre and James Mayhew will lead you through the basics of structuring a picture book, discuss sources of inspiration, techniques, and share from their experience. Bring your questions, as they talk about working with agents and editors, and how to promote their work. Pack your drawing materials and paper, notebooks, sketchbooks and, if you want, your portfolio and work-in-progress books for them to review in one-on-one tutorials. If you haven't a work-in-progress picture book, it's fine if you want to start from scratch! Your tutors will walk you through designing characters, creating thumbnails, demonstrating full-size roughs and illustration techniques, so you'll be set to create finished artwork for your book.

Sarah McIntyre has written and illustrated picture books including *Grumpycorn*, *The New Neighbours*, *Dinosaur Firefighters* and *There's a Shark in the Bath*. She loves collaborating with friends on books such as *Jampires*, co-written and illustrated with David O'Connell. Her co-authored books with Philip Reeve include *The Legend of Kevin*, *Oliver* and *The Seawigs and Pugs of the Frozen North*; the two of them have travelled widely to present their books at festivals and schools. In 2015, she and James Mayhew co-founded the #PicturesMeanBusiness campaign, helping people see how everyone wins when illustrators are properly credited for their work.

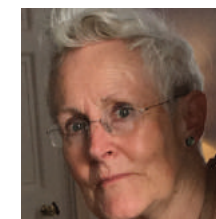
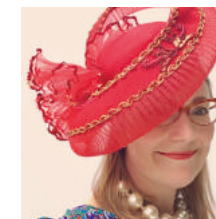
James Mayhew has been creating books for over 30 years, from *Katie*, and *Ella Bella*, to *Koshka's Tales* and *Gaspard the Fox*. He works traditionally, and is highly experienced in many different illustration techniques. James also works with musicians and orchestras, presenting classical concerts that incorporate traditional storytelling and art created live on stage. A passionate advocate of art, music, story and culture for children, James is in demand internationally as a speaker, performer and educator, at museums and galleries, universities, and both literary and music festivals.

Vivian French is the author of more than 300 books. In 2016 she was awarded an MBE for her services to literature, literacy, illustration and the arts, and in 2018 she received the Scottish Book Trust Outstanding Achievement Award. She is the co-founder of the critically acclaimed Picture Hooks mentoring scheme to help emerging art graduates find their feet in the world of book illustration.

COURSE NO 45

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



CALENDAR OF COURSES

JANUARY

COURSE NO 3

NEW YEAR RETREAT
MONDAY 13TH - SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY

COURSE NO 4

JANUARY RETREAT
MONDAY 20TH - SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY

FEBRUARY

CÙRSA / COURSE NO D5

**LEANTAINN NO SEACHNADH
CHEUMANNAN-COISE DHON-
NCHAI DH BHAIN?**

A' TOIRT FEABHAS AIR UR CUID GÀIDHLIG LE
BHITH A' SGRIOBHADH MU NÀDAR IS
ÀRAINNEACHD.
DIDÒMHNAICH 2^{NA} GEARRAN
RUAIRIDH MACILLEATHAIN

**FOLLOWING IN DUNCAN BAN'S
FOOTSTEPS OR STEPPING OUT
OF THEM?**

IMPROVE YOUR GAELIC BY WRITING ABOUT
NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY
RUAIRIDH MACLEAN

CÙRSA / COURSE NO D8

GRÀDH-NÀDAIR IS ÀRAINNEACHD
DIDÒMHNAICH 23^{MH} GEARRAN
RUAIRIDH MACILLEATHAIN

**LOVE OF NATURE
AND ENVIRONMENT**

SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY
RUAIRIDH MACLEAN

MARCH

COURSE NO 11

MARCH RETREAT
MONDAY 9TH - SATURDAY 14TH MARCH

COURSE NO 12

SPRING RETREAT
MONDAY 16TH - SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

APRIL

COURSE NO D14

HOME AND BELONGING
SUNDAY 5TH APRIL
MARJORIE LOTFI GILL

APRIL

COURSE NO 16

FICTION
FINISHING THE FIRST DRAFT
MONDAY 13TH - SATURDAY 18TH APRIL
ADAM FOULDS, ALAN WARNER & MONICA ALI

COURSE NO 17

SONGWRITING
SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE
MONDAY 20TH - SATURDAY 25TH APRIL
BOO HEWERDINE, FINDLAY NAPIER
& EMILY BARKER

COURSE NO 18

POETRY
MAKE YOUR WORDS COME ALIVE
MONDAY 27TH APRIL - SATURDAY 2ND MAY
EFE PAUL AZINO, JO BELL & ERIN MAY KELLY

MAY

COURSE NO 19

MAY RETREAT
MONDAY 4TH - SATURDAY 9TH MAY

COURSE NO 20

WRITING FOR YOUNG ADULTS
MONDAY 11TH - SATURDAY 16TH MAY
MELVIN BURGESS, PATRICE LAWRENCE
& TANYA LANDMAN

COURSE NO 21

MEMOIR
TELLING YOUR STORY
MONDAY 18TH - SATURDAY 23RD MAY
COLIN GRANT, CHITRA RAMASWAMY
& SHAUN BYTHELL

JUNE

COURSE NO 24

WRITING THE MUSIC
TUTORED RETREAT
MONDAY 8TH - SATURDAY 13TH JUNE
MICHEL FABER, LOUISA YOUNG
& KATHRYN WILLIAMS

COURSE NO 26

WRITING AND WALKING
MONDAY 22ND - SATURDAY 27TH JUNE
MADELEINE BUNTING, CHRIS STEWART
& NEIL ANSELL

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT:

WWW.MONIACKMHOR.ORG.UK | INFO@MONIACKMHOR.ORG.UK | 01463 741675

JULY

COURSE NO 29

FICTION
TUTORED RETREAT
MONDAY 13TH - SATURDAY 18TH JULY
KAMILA SHAMSIE, GILLIAN SLOVO
& JENNY BROWN

COURSE NO 30

POETRY
DEVELOPING NEW HABITS
MONDAY 20TH - SATURDAY 25TH JULY
JACOB POLLEY, JEAN SPRACKLAND
& IFOR AP GLYN

AUGUST

COURSE NO 33

PLAYWRITING
CRAFT AND INSPIRATION
MONDAY 10TH - SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST
MATT HARTLEY, AMY ROSENTHAL
& MARK ROSENBLATT

COURSE NO 34

AUGUST RETREAT
MONDAY 17TH - SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST

COURSE NO 35

CRIME
CREATING SUSPENSE
MONDAY 24TH - SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST
YRSA SIGURÐARDÓTTIR, LAURA WILSON
& CHRISTOPHER BROOKMYRE

SEPTEMBER

COURSE NO 37

STARTING OUT IN FICTION
MONDAY 7TH - SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER
KARIN ALTENBERG, ANDREW MILLER
& ANDREW O'HAGAN

COURSE NO 38

POETRY
WHERE DO POEMS COME FROM?
MONDAY 14TH - SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
NIALL CAMPBELL, PASCALE PETIT
& SINEAD MORRISSEY

COURSE NO 39

POETRY AMBASSADORS
INSPIRING OTHERS
THURSDAY 24TH - SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
JOHN GLENDAY & JEN HADFIELD

OCTOBER

COURSE NO 44

SHORT STORY
EXPLORE THE FANTASTIC
MONDAY 26TH - SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER
ZOE GILBERT, ADAM MAREK & A.L. KENNEDY

NOVEMBER

COURSE NO 45

PICTURE BOOKS
MONDAY 2ND - SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER
SARAH MCINTYRE, JAMES MAYHEW
& VIVIAN FRENCH

COURSE NO 46

NON-FICTION
KEEPING IT REAL
MONDAY 9TH - SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
LAURA BARTON, HORATIO CLARE
& ROBERT DAVIDSON

COURSE NO D46

TAPPING INTO THE SENSES
SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER
NALINI PAUL

COURSE NO 47

WAYS WITH WORDS
WRITING RETREAT FOR SOCIAL WORKERS
MONDAY 16TH - WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER
JOHN GLENDAY & LOUISE WALLWEIN

COURSE NO 48

NOVEMBER RETREAT
MONDAY 23RD - SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

COURSE NO 51

CHRISTMAS RETREAT
MONDAY 14TH - SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER

GUIDE TO COURSES

RESIDENTIAL COURSE

TUTORED RETREAT

CPD COURSE

RETREAT

PRÒGRAM GÀIDHLIG / GAELIC PROGRAMME

DAY WORKSHOP

NON-FICTION

KEEPING IT REAL

MONDAY 9TH — SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

WITH LAURA BARTON & HORATIO CLARE
GUEST ROBERT DAVIDSON

This course is aimed at writers of all levels, from beginners to published authors, who wish to hone and develop their non-fiction, be it memoir, biography, travel, life writing, nature or place writing – every variety of long form non-fiction falls within our scope. Taught by two award-winning authors and journalists, the course will explore a range of techniques, drawing inspiration and instruction from a sweep of influences, from poetry to features. We will study and practise the creation of places you can feel, people you can see and hear and stories that grip and engross.

A *Guardian* feature writer and music columnist for a decade, **Laura Barton** now writes for a variety of publications including *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *The New York Times*, *Q* and *1843*. She is also a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4. Her novel, *Twenty One Locks*, was the recipient of a Betty Trask Award. Her next book, *Sad Songs*, will be published in Autumn 2020.

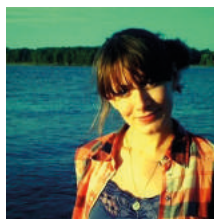
Horatio Clare's work ranges across travel, nature, memoir, fiction and children's books. His awards include The Somerset Maugham, The Stanford-Dolman Travel Book of the Year, The Branford Boase Best Debut Children's Book and The Foreign Press Association Award for travel article of the year. He writes regularly for *The Financial Times* on travel and *The Spectator* on books. Much in demand as a writing tutor, he lectures on non-fiction at the University of Manchester's Centre for New Writing.

Robert Davidson founded Sandstone Press in 2002. A former reviews editor and Managing Editor of *Northwords* magazine, he directed Inverness Book Festival for two years. He is the author, co-author and editor of many books as well as a published poet, lyricist and librettist. Sandstone Press books have been listed for, or won, many literary prizes and the company was named Saltire Society Scottish Publisher of the Year 2014. In 2019, *Celestial Bodies* by Jokha Alharthi, translated by Marilyn Booth, won The Man Booker International Prize.

COURSE NO 46

WORKSHOPS
ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £625
SHARED ROOM: £575



SHORT COURSE:

POETRY AMBASSADORS INSPIRING OTHERS

THURSDAY 24TH — SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

WITH JOHN GLENDAY
& JEN HADFIELD

How do we inspire others to write poems? How do we remove the fear factor from creating work that can be shared and enjoyed? This short course is designed to give teachers, librarians and other professionals working in the sector the confidence and skills to share and inspire the creation of poetry with audiences of all ages. Your tutors, John Glenday and Jen Hadfield, will lead workshops and discussions through which you'll learn the tricks, tips and techniques of putting aspiring writers at ease, passing on the confidence to create their own wonderful work (and even creating new work themselves!). This course is specifically designed to give library staff, teachers and other professionals the confidence and skills to work creatively with groups who may have limited experience of writing creatively. In collaboration with The Scottish Poetry Library, four places on this course will be awarded to their Poetry Fellowship Scheme. For other professionals who may wish to use this course as Continuing Professional Development, bursaries are available to help towards course costs.

John Glenday is the author of four poetry collections. *The Apple Ghost* (Peterloo Poets, 1989) won a Scottish Arts Council Book Award and *Undark* was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation for 1995. His third collection, *Grain* (Picador, 2009), was also a PBS Recommendation and shortlisted for The Ted Hughes Award and the Griffin International Poetry Prize. His most recent collection, *The Golden Mean* (Picador, 2015), won The Roehampton Poetry Prize and was shortlisted for The Saltire Scottish Poetry Book of the Year.

Jen Hadfield is a poet published by Picador. Her second poetry collection, *Nigh-No-Place* (Bloodaxe), won the 2008 T.S. Eliot Prize. At the moment she is working on a fourth collection, provisionally titled *The Stone Age*, exploring neurodiversity, and a collection of essays. Jen is a Creative Writing Teaching Fellow at Glasgow University and was the Charles Causley resident in autumn 2018. She is building a house in Shetland, very slowly.

COURSE NO 39

CONTINUING
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COURSE

PRICES:
SINGLE ROOM: £375
SHARED ROOM: £325



SHORT COURSE:

WAYS WITH WORDS WRITING RETREAT FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

MONDAY 16TH — WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

WITH JOHN GLENDAY
& LOUISE WALLWEIN

The records we create for care experienced young people will undoubtedly contain information about what happened to them in their past, but can also have long-term effects on their memory, identity and therefore their future. During this short writing retreat, writers John Glenday and Louise Wallwein will lead you through some inspiring writing exercises and creative activities that will encourage you to tap into your creativity. Ultimately the skills and habits this course will develop in your writing will help you to form the sort of record that can build a better future for young people leaving the care system.

For a number of years, **John Glenday** worked as an addiction counsellor in the north and east of Scotland. He is the author of four poetry collections. *The Apple Ghost* (Peterloo Poets, 1989) won a Scottish Arts Council Book Award and *Undark* was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation for 1995. His third collection, *Grain* (Picador, 2009), was also a PBS Recommendation and shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award and the Griffin International Poetry Prize. His most recent collection, *The Golden Mean* (Picador, 2015), won the Roehampton Poetry Prize and was shortlisted for the Saltire Scottish Poetry Book of the Year.

An award-winning poet, playwright and performer from Manchester, **Louise Wallwein** was brought up in 13 different children's homes and wrote her first play at the age of 17. Her career took off in 1998 when she performed an award-winning one-woman show on the wing of a World War II Shackleton reconnaissance aircraft. Since then her work has been broadcast by the BBC and produced by theatre and production companies both in the UK and abroad. During 2006, Louise was Poet in Residence, Queensland, Australia and Writer in Residence at the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture, Winnipeg, Canada.

This course is supported by our Life Changes Trust project (see page 44). Places on this course are fully funded.

For further information about this course, or to book a place, please contact Andy Nixseaman at andy@moniackmhor.org.uk or calling 01463 741 675.

COURSE NO 47

CONTINUING
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COURSE



POETRY DAY WORKSHOPS

PRICE £60

Whether you are new to writing poetry or have already dabbled, our day workshops are a great way of immersing yourself in creativity. Our expert tutors will lead you through some simple exercises to get you inspired, write new work and reflect on new ways of working. Workshops have a maximum of 14 participants.

HOME AND BELONGING

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 10AM – 4PM

WITH MARJORIE LOTFI GILL

COURSE NO D14

PRICE: £60

During this day workshop, Marjorie will examine what home means to each of us – in its broadest sense and on a personal level. Through discussion and writing exercises, we'll explore how our sense of home and belonging is shaped by memory, place and the natural world.

Marjorie Lotfi Gill's poems have won competitions, been published widely in journals and anthologies, and been performed on BBC Radio 4. Her pamphlet *Refuge*, poems about her childhood in revolutionary Iran, is published by Tapsalteerie Press. Marjorie is a founder and director of Open Book and the Chair of the Wigtown Book Festival



TAPPING INTO THE SENSES

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 10AM – 4PM

WITH NALINI PAUL

COURSE NO D46

PRICE: £60

What does the sky taste like? What kind of music does the wind in the trees make? How do you feel when you imagine walking through a forest at dusk? Join Nalini Paul for a day of poetry and exploration through the senses. You will engage with sound, smell and tactility, creating imagery that brings the abstract and the tangible together. Writing exercises and discussion will help you to generate new ideas and to focus them in your own time. We will explore different forms of poetry, and look at poetic techniques, to help bring your writing to life. This workshop suits all abilities, whether you have written poetry before or are new to this exciting genre. Some writing exercises will be held outside, weather permitting.

Nalini Paul's first poetry pamphlet, *Skirlags*, was shortlisted for The Callum Macdonald Award in 2010. As George Mackay Brown Writing Fellow in Orkney (2009-10), she collaborated with dancers, musicians, visual artists, archaeologists and the RSPB. Her collection *The Raven's Song* (2015) draws inspiration from Orkney, Shetland and Canada. Nalini's poetic work, *Beyond the Mud Walls*, was showcased for Stellar Quines Theatre's *Rehearsal Rooms* at the Traverse, Edinburgh in 2016. She was a Robert Louis Stevenson Fellow in 2017 and undertook a residency in Lewis and Kolkata as part of the New Passages project (2017-18). She currently tutors and lectures at Glasgow School of Art.

www.nalinipaul.com



PRÒGRAM GÀIDHLIG / GAELIC PROGRAMME

LEANTAINN NO SEACHNADH CHEUMANNAN-COISE DHONNCHADH BHÀIN?

A' TOIRT FEABHAS AIR UR CUID GÀIDHLIG LE BHITH
A' SGRIOBHADH MU NÀDAR IS ÀRAINNEACHD.

(AIRSON LUCHD-IONNSACHAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG)

DIDÒMHNAICH 2^{NA} GEARRAN 10.00M – 4.00F
LE RUAIRIDH MACILLEATHAIN

CÙRSA/COURSE D5
PRIS/PRICE £60

B' e Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir fear de na bàird a bu chliùitiche a sgrìobh riamh ann an Gàidhlig mu nàdar. Ciamar as urrainn do luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a bhith air am brosnachadh le dileab Dhonnchaidh gus sgrìobhadh mu nàdar, àrainneachd is dùthchas ann an stoidhle is gnàthas a fhreagras air a' choimhearsnachd anns an latha an-diugh? Stiùiridh Ruairidh MacIlleathain na compàirtichean tron bhriathrachas, na gnàthasan-cainnt agus an iomhaigheachd aig cridhe an dàin ainmeil *Coire Cheathaich*, leis an amas gun sgrìobh iad uile rudeigin – rosg, bàrdachd, dealbh-cluich, ficsean no neo-fhicsean – mu nàdar, gràdh-dùthcha no na dùbhlain a tha ro mhac an duine gu cruinneil.

NB: Feumaidh na daoine a thig don bhùth-obrach seo a bhith leanta ann an Gàidhlig, le comas math sgrìobhaidh is leughaidh.

FOLLOWING DUNCAN BAN'S FOOTPRINTS OR STEPPING OUT OF THEM?

IMPROVING YOUR GAELIC BY WRITING
ABOUT NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT.

(FOR GAELIC LEARNERS)

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY, 10AM – 4PM
WITH RUAIRIDH MACLEAN

Duncan Ban MacIntyre was one of Gaeldom's most celebrated nature poets. More than two centuries later, how can learners of Gaelic be inspired and informed by this master wordsmith's vision, style and choice of vocabulary to write about nature, landscape and heritage in a modern context and idiom? Ruairidh Maclean will guide participants through Duncan's choice of words and imagery in his famous poem *Coire Cheathaich*, and will encourage them to write creatively – prose, poetry, drama, fiction or non-fiction – about nature, landscape or the challenges of global environmental change.

NB: Note that this workshop is for learners of Gaelic who have already travelled some distance on their learning path. It is not suitable for early-stage learners or those who have not yet begun to learn the language.

GRÀDH-NÀDAIR IS ÀRAINNEACHD

(AIRSON FEADHAINN A THA FILEANTA ANN AN GÀIDHLIG)

DIDÒMHNAICH 23^{MH} GEARRAN 10.00M – 4.00F
LE RUAIRIDH MACILLEATHAIN

CÙRSA/COURSE D8
PRIS/PRICE £60

Dh'fhàg Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir agus Dòmhnall Mac Fhionnlaigh nan Dàn againn dà de na dàin a bu chumhachdaiche a chaidh a sgrìobhadh ann an Gàidhlig riamh mu nàdar – *Coire Cheathaich* agus *Òran na Comhachaig*. Stiùiridh Ruairidh MacIlleathain na compàirtichean tro gach dàn, a' sgrùdadh briathrachas is iomhaigheachd gach bàird, agus a' brosnachadh deasbad mu sgrìobhadh Gàidhlig anns an latha a th' ann – am bu chòir dha a bhith a' leantainn chas-cheumannan stèidhichte no a' lorg shlighean ùra? Bithear a' brosnachadh chompàirtichean gus rudeigin ùr a sgrìobhadh ann an Gàidhlig air an latha – rosg, bàrdachd, dealbh-cluich, ficsean no neo-fhicsean – mu nàdar, gràdh-dùthcha no na dùbhlain a tha ro mhac an duine gu cruinneil.

NB: Feumaidh na daoine a thig don bhùth-obrach seo a bhith fileanta ann an Gàidhlig, le comas math sgrìobhaidh is leughaidh.

LOVE OF NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

(FOR FLUENT GAELIC SPEAKERS)

SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 10AM – 4PM
WITH RUAIRIDH MACLEAN

Duncan Ban MacIntyre and Dòmhnall MacFhionnlaigh nan Dàn left us two of the most powerful literary celebrations of land and nature in our language – *Coire Cheathaich* and *Òran na Comhachaig*. Ruairidh Maclean will guide participants through both poems, examining the authors' choice of words and imagery, and will stimulate debate about the role of the modern Gaelic writer – is it to strengthen the heritage by mastering existing norms or to consciously move Gaelic writing into uncharted territory? Participants will be encouraged on the day to write creatively – prose, poetry, drama, fiction or non-fiction – about nature, landscape or the challenges of global environmental change.

NB: Those who attend this workshop must be fluent in Gaelic, with a strong ability to write and read the language.

GRAIN DHONNCHÀIDH BHAIN

MOLADH BEINN DOBHRAIN

Air fonn Pìobaireachd

URLAR

An t-urram thar gach beinn
Aig Beinn Dòbhrain;

De na chunnaic mi fo 'n ghréin,
'S i bu bhòidhche leam:

Munadh fada réidh,
Cuilidh 'm faighte féidh,

Soilleireachd an t-sléibh
Bha mi sònrachadh;

Doireachan nan geug,
Coill' anns am bi fear,

'S foinncasach an spréidh
Bhios a chòmhnaidh ann;

Greadhain bu gheal céir,
Faghaid air an déidh,

'S laghach leam an sreud
A bha sròineicach.

S aigcannach fear eutrom
Gun mhòrchuis,

Seanda 'na cèideadh
Dòmmail:

tal uime fion,
h urig,
mar chéir
duth air.

2770

2775

2780

2785



Tha Ruairidh MacIleathain na fhear-naidheachd, chraoladair, oide agus sgeulaiche, stèidhichte ann an Inbhir Nis. 'S e a chruthaich *Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh* agus an *Litir Bheag* a th' air an craoladh gu seachdaineil air BBC Radio nan Gàidheal. Tha e cuideachd na ùghdar agus bhuannaich a nobhail *Còig Duilleagan na Seamraig* Duais Dhòmhnaill Meek ann an 2018. Mar sgeulaiche, tha ùidh mhòr aig Ruairidh ann an sgeulachdan na Fèinne, agus chaidh iarraidh air a bhith ri seachas aig Fèis Eadar-nàiseanta nan Sgeulaichean ann an 2018 agus 2019.

Ruairidh Maclean is a Gaelic journalist, broadcaster, author, educator and storyteller, based in Inverness. The creator of the long-running *Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh* and *Litir Bheag* on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal, Roddy is a published author whose new novel *Còig Duilleagan na Seamraig* won the Donald Meek Award in 2018. As a storyteller, he has taken a great interest in the tales of the Fianna, and was invited to participate in the Scottish International Storytelling Festival in 2018 and 2019.

RETREATS

SINGLE ROOMS ONLY
OPTIONAL GUIDED WALKS

SINGLE ROOM: £350
EN-SUITE ROOM: £400*

*LIMITED EN-SUITE ROOMS AVAILABLE

Be it first draft, final edits or simply wanting to get creative – a writing retreat at Moniack Mhor offers you space and time to focus on your work.

This year we are offering 8 weeks as Writing Retreats, with the option to come for a fortnight in January and March.



COURSE NO 3

NEW YEAR RETREAT

MONDAY 13TH – SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY

COURSE NO 4

JANUARY RETREAT

MONDAY 20TH – SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY

COURSE NO 11

MARCH RETREAT

MONDAY 9TH – SATURDAY 14TH MARCH

COURSE NO 12

SPRING RETREAT

MONDAY 16TH – SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

COURSE NO 48

MAY RETREAT

MONDAY 4TH – SATURDAY 9TH MAY

COURSE NO 34

AUGUST RETREAT

MONDAY 17TH – SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST

COURSE NO 48

NOVEMBER RETREAT

MONDAY 23RD – SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

COURSE NO 51

CHRISTMAS RETREAT

MONDAY 14TH – SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER



“I’ve had an exceptional week here – a really perfect environment to focus on writing.”

“Moniack had all the details covered. The sense of camaraderie made it all the better.”

“I love this place – one of Scotland’s treasures.”

HOW TO BOOK

Bookings can be made:

- Online at www.moniackmhor.org.uk
- By phone 01463 741675
- By email info@moniackmhor.org.uk

PAYMENT

Courses can be paid for in full, or a deposit of £150 is required to secure your place. This can be paid when booking online, by cheque (payable to Moniack Mhor Ltd), bank transfer or by credit card over the phone. The balance of the full course fee is due 10 weeks prior to the course. If we do not receive the balance in time, your booking may be treated as a cancellation and offered to another writer.

Courses can be paid for in instalments, provided the full balance is paid 10 weeks prior to the course beginning. If this is of interest to you, please phone or email the centre to discuss payment plans.

CANCELLATIONS

Deposits are non-refundable. For cancellations made up to 10 weeks before the course takes place, your course fee minus your deposit will be returned. For cancellations made within the 10 weeks prior to the commencement of your course, we will do our best to find someone else to take your place and, if we succeed, any course fees paid (excluding the £150 deposit) will be returned. If we cannot re-fill your place, we will retain the full fee. Sometimes we can offer a transfer to another course. For full terms and conditions, see

www.moniackmhor.org.uk/terms-and-conditions/

BURSARIES

Moniack Mhor offers bursaries to those who may find course fees a barrier to attending a course. Bursaries, which cover a part of the course fee, are available to those based in the UK. For more information and to apply, visit:

www.moniackmhor.org.uk/courses/bursaries or contact us to discuss the details.

THE A9 BURSARY

The A9 Bursary exists to provide additional encouragement and support to women writers who experience discrimination and inequality including writers from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, LGBTQ writers and working-class writers. Thanks to support from two writers, we can now offer this short-term bursary scheme for women writers over the age of 18 who identify as from a BAME background, as LGBTQ, or as working class. We can offer bursaries for the full amount for access to any element of our programme, however most bursaries tend to range from £100 to £300. The A9 Bursary can also be used to support a writer's ability to attend the workshop (eg childcare).

GETTING HERE

Moniack Mhor is 14 miles from Inverness, and within easy reach of the train station, bus station and airport. We will arrange taxis for you from these places. If you choose to drive there are directions on our website.

GIFT VOUCHERS

If you would like to buy a special gift for a friend, we can provide a gift voucher for any amount.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We can cater for most dietary requirements and allergies and always provide vegetarian options. Please let us know your specific requirements when booking your course.

ACCESS

The kitchen, two bedrooms and communal spaces, as well as a wheelchair-accessible wet room, are situated downstairs. There is a hearing loop in the main house and guide dogs are welcome, just let us know. We can also provide mobility equipment and course materials in Braille if needed.

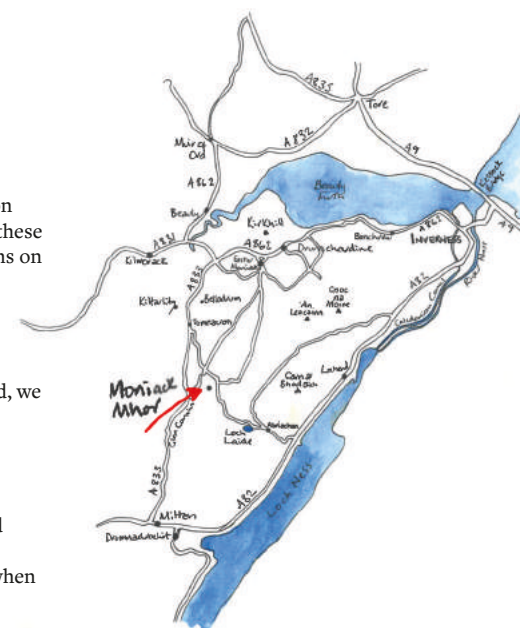
If you would like to come with a carer or support worker, please contact the centre to discuss accommodation options.

JOIN THE MAILING LIST

To receive a brochure in the post for next year, or sign up to our monthly email newsletter, go to www.moniackmhor.org.uk/sign-up or email us on info@moniackmhor.org.uk

KEEP IN TOUCH

Facebook: Moniack Mhor
Twitter: @moniackmhor
Instagram: @moniackmhor



AWARDS

EMERGING WRITER AWARD (THE BRIDGE AWARD)

The Bridge Awards is a philanthropic venture that has helped to fund theatre and visual arts projects. Since 2015, the Bridge Awards have supported one emerging writer annually at Moniack Mhor. The award will run again in 2020 with a tailor-made prize up to the value of £2000 for the successful writer.

THE
BRIDGE
AWARDS

TRAVEL WRITING AWARD

This award will support one place on our Writing and Walking course. The deadline for this award will be announced via our newsletter and on our website. This award is kindly donated by our patron, Mairi Hedderwick.

WRITING FOR CHILDREN AWARD

This award will support a place on our Picture Books course. The deadline for this award will be announced via our newsletter and on our website. This award is kindly donated by our patron, Mairi Hedderwick.

THE JESSIE KESSON FELLOWSHIP

A published writer spends three weeks during March at the centre, developing their own work and raising awareness about Jessie Kesson in the community and local schools.

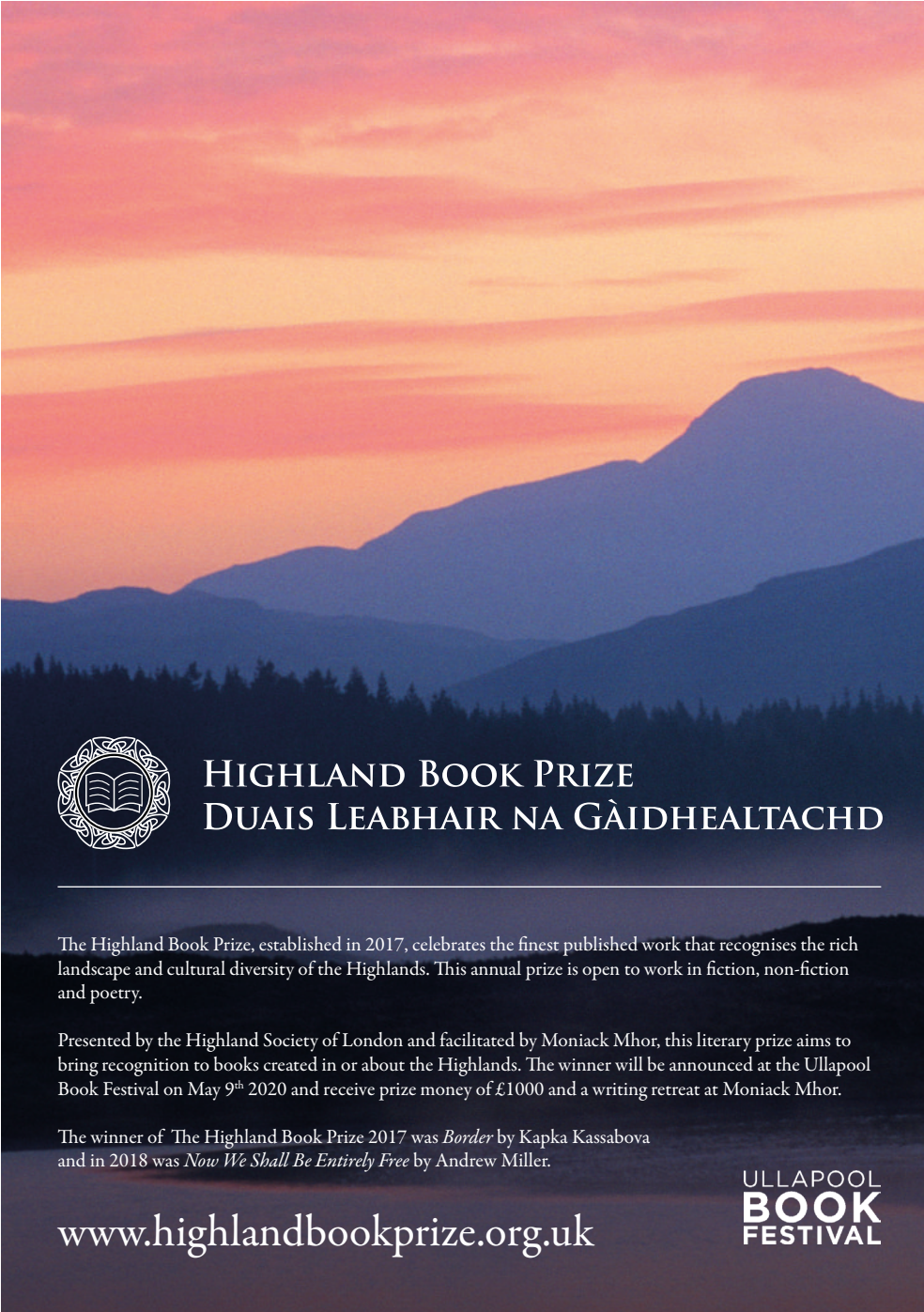
KATHARINE STEWART AWARD

In celebration of the life and work of Katharine Stewart, who lived just a few miles from Moniack Mhor in Abriachan, we will be offering an award comprised of a retreat week and mentoring sessions. Preference will be given to those whose work is inspired in some way by the writing of Katharine Stewart.

"I can honestly say that the Jessie Kesson Fellowship was one of the most productive experiences of my writing life to date. There seems to be something about Moniack Mhor - perhaps a combination of the beautiful place, the brilliant people and the well-selected poetry library in the cottage - which makes it unusually easy to have a great time getting writing done."

Stewart Sanderson
2019 Jessie Kesson Fellow

For application deadlines, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions for all our awards, please see www.moniackmhor.org.uk/writers/awards-fellowships/



HIGHLAND BOOK PRIZE DUAIS LEABHAIR NA GÀIDHEALTACHD

The Highland Book Prize, established in 2017, celebrates the finest published work that recognises the rich landscape and cultural diversity of the Highlands. This annual prize is open to work in fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

Presented by the Highland Society of London and facilitated by Moniack Mhor, this literary prize aims to bring recognition to books created in or about the Highlands. The winner will be announced at the Ullapool Book Festival on May 9th 2020 and receive prize money of £1000 and a writing retreat at Moniack Mhor.

The winner of The Highland Book Prize 2017 was *Border* by Kapka Kassabova and in 2018 was *Now We Shall Be Entirely Free* by Andrew Miller.

www.highlandbookprize.org.uk

ULLAPOOL
BOOK
FESTIVAL

Photograph credit: Iain Sarjeant

FRIENDS' SCHEME

At Moniack Mhor we aim to foster a diverse and mutually supportive literary culture by nurturing writing skills and building the confidence to create new work. We make opportunities for people of all ages and from all walks of life to participate in creative writing by providing space, inspiration and tuition from leading writers.

By becoming a member of our Friends' Scheme, you will be helping those who might otherwise find it difficult to access creative writing opportunities. Every contribution we receive through our Friends' Scheme goes directly into our bursary fund, helping those who would otherwise face a financial barrier to attend a workshop or course. We also use monies from our Friends' Scheme to support activity for young writers in Highland region and beyond.

Every level of support rewards you with a newsletter and priority booking. With your help, we are able to open Moniack Mhor's doors to everyone. Thank you.

For more information and to sign up please visit www.moniackmhor.org.uk/writers/friends

**HELP US KEEP
THE DOORS OF
MONIACK
MHOR
OPEN TO
EVERYONE**

SUPPORTER – £30 (£20 students/unwaged)

Priority booking for our courses

FRIEND – £60

Priority booking for our courses
Tote Bag
5 % discount on all our courses

COMPANION – £120

Priority booking for our courses
Tote Bag
Notebook
10 % discount on all our courses

CHAMPION – £500

Priority booking for our courses
Tote Bag
Notebook
15 % discount on all our courses

plus Invitation to special event

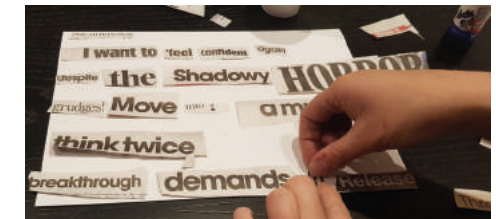
PARTNERSHIPS



Throughout the year, Moniack Mhor runs a number of partnerships with universities, writing groups and other literary organisations. These courses often follow a similar structure to the open weeks, though they can be tailor-made to suit the needs of the group. We welcome the opportunity to support those in need of time and space to write in a comfortable environment from groups based locally, nationally and internationally.

Please get in touch with our Course Coordinator, Sarah Kinghorn (sarah@moniackmhor.org.uk) if you are interested in bringing a partnership to Moniack Mhor.

YOUTH PROGRAMME



Moniack Mhor runs a programme of creative writing activity for young people living in the Highlands and beyond. Our outreach work takes us into schools, libraries and community centres, delivering high-quality workshops and one-to-one mentoring on young people's doorsteps. We also target our efforts, making sure we reach those who don't usually get easy access to the artform.

Once a month we hold WORDS, a writing café for young people. This is held in Waterstones, Inverness on the first Thursday of every month (except January) and is led by a different tutor each time. The tutor leads the group through writing exercises and group discussion to help build young people's confidence and help them find their creative voice.

If you are a young writer, a teacher interested in a school visit, a support worker, parent or have any other interest in activity for young people please contact Eilidh Smith, Programme Manager, eilidh@moniackmhor.org.uk

CREATIVE & ACTIVE LIVES PROGRAMME

In addition to the youth programme, we are delighted to be offering a Creative and Active Lives Programme. This programme runs from 2018 – 2021 and is funded by the Life Changes Trust specifically to offer a range of opportunities to young people who are care experienced.

Anybody who is aged between 14 and 26 and is care experienced (ie looked after in a residential setting, or at home or has been in the past) can be supported to access creative opportunities, build on existing skills or learn new ones. We can offer residential courses at Moniak Mhor, taster sessions across Scotland, one to one mentoring by experienced tutors and other forms of support such as opportunities through our leadership programme.

Young people can contact us directly, or can be referred by social workers, teachers or any other support agencies. So, if you (or someone you know) are care experienced and have an interest in creative activities, or just fancy trying something new and fun, please contact Andy Nixseaman, the Project Coordinator – andy@moniakmhor.org.uk



ABOUT THE CENTRE

THE CENTRE HAS

- Ten single rooms
- Two twin rooms
- Wifi in the communal areas
- Laptops, a printer and a photocopier
- Bikes for student use
- Yoga mats
- Tutor books for sale
- Maps and books on the local area
- A branch of the Scottish Poetry Library and a fiction library
- A vegetable, herb and fruit garden with fresh produce in season
- A dry-stone storytelling circle with firepit for sharing tales under the stars

WHAT TO BRING

In addition to anything you need for the week, we suggest you bring:

- Writing materials: everyone's habits are different so bring what you need, laptop, paper, pens etc.
- A USB memory stick for printing
- Boots or trainers suitable for walking on rough paths
- Slippers
- A waterproof jacket
- Warm clothes
- Cash for taxis, wine, tutors' books or sundries. (there is no cash machine or shops nearby)



WHO WE ARE



RACHEL HUMPHRIES
Centre Director & Programmer
rachel@moniackmhor.org.uk

In the 10 years Rachel has been Director there have been many improvements to the centre, including gaining regular funding from Creative Scotland, the garden project, the construction of the Straw Bale studio and the move to independence. Outside work, Rachel can be found herding goats on her croft, creating pottery or crafting scenarios for her role playing group.



ANGELA CRAN
General Manager
angela@moniackmhor.org.uk

Angie helps manage the daily logistics of keeping the Centre – and its dedicated staff! – running smoothly. She wants everyone who finds themselves at Moniack Mhor to feel relaxed, at home and stappit fu (much like herself).



SARAH KINGHORN
Course Coordinator
sarah@moniackmhor.org.uk

Sarah supports our partnership courses and takes care of the house inside and out and also works towards making our operations more sustainable.



DR HEATHER CLYNE
Administrator
heather@moniackmhor.org.uk

Previously to be found studying whales on the high seas, Heather also has a degree in Scottish Gaelic from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye, feeding her passion for Gaelic place-names and poetry. When not answering your emails, or playing her fiddle, she is tending her flock of hens.



LAURA DONALD
Administrator
laura@moniackmhor.org.uk

Laura takes care of our administration with Heather. She writes whenever she can, and is currently building a fantasy world. When not working or writing she's usually watching a Marvel movie, or out with the dogs.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Nicky Guthrie (Chair), Caroline Deacon (Vice Chair), Kit Fraser (Treasurer), Cynthia Rogerson (Secretary), Anne MacLeod, Lorraine Mann, Janet Adams, Stewart Lackie and Joe Gibbs



EILIDH SMITH
Programme Manager
eilidh@moniackmhor.org.uk

Eilidh's career has led her from journalism, to education, through the environmental sector to the arts. Living in Strathpeffer she reckons she has one of the best commutes in the UK, possibly the world.



RICHMOND CLEMENTS
Communications Coordinator
richmond@moniackmhor.org.uk

Richmond looks after all things Facebook, Twitter and social media for Moniack Mhor. When not doing that, he can still be found behind a keyboard where he writes comics, reviews and for computer games.



ANDY NIXSEAMAN
Project Coordinator
andy@moniackmhor.org.uk

Having spent 30 years working with young people Andy will be trying to offer opportunities that are both fun and rewarding. He hopes to find ways of including people who know what they want to do as well as those who just want to explore new things. Developing skills or discovering abilities people did not know they had.



MIRREN ROSIE
Course Assistant
& Highland Book Prize Coordinator
mirren@moniackmhor.org.uk

Mirren keeps the fridges stocked with goodies and keeps the hearth warm for your arrival, she also coordinates the Highland Book Prize and will happily recommend a good read. With a background in design and photography, Mirren can often be found down beyond the hobbit house enjoying Moniack Mhor's beautiful surroundings.



JILLIAN MACPHERSON
Centre Assistant
jillian@moniackmhor.org.uk

Jillian's answer to most things is let's have a cuppa and a bit of cake, which is ideal because her main role at Moniack Mhor is keeping everyone nourished with delicious food. When not at work Jillian is usually busy with her children, her dogs and some crazy DIY project.

