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Northern Writers' Awards 2020: winners announced

Twenty-six writers from a record 1,800 entrants have received awards worth over £45,000 to support their unpublished work-in-progress in this year's Northern Writers' Awards.

[The Northern Writers' Awards](#) were founded by the writing agency [New Writing North](#), with Northumbria University a key partner and headline sponsor.

Now in their 21st year, the awards recognise talent and support new work towards publication or broadcast by offering mentoring, developmental support and cash awards to writers at all stages of their careers.

[Katy Shaw](#), Professor of Contemporary Writings at Northumbria University, said: "The Northern Writers' Awards profile the best new talent from the North of England. At a time when we need culture and the arts more than ever, this year's winners show that the next generation of creative talent has the potential to help us re-frame a post-pandemic world and better understand ourselves and our society."

As part of its involvement in the awards, Northumbria sponsors the [Northumbria University Student and Alumni Award](#), worth £2,000.

This award is open to final year students and recent graduates of the university in any discipline and includes either works of fiction or poetry.

This year's winner was Andrew Wilkinson, who graduated from Northumbria in 2013 with an [MA in Creative Writing](#).

Andrew has been writing fiction since he attended a creative writing night class at his local high school between 2008 and 2010.

He is currently working on a novel about Gustav Mahler, and his short story *Timewind* featured in the *Uncommonalities* anthology edited by John Schoneboom.

Andrew has previously published nonfiction in the field of clinical psychology and psychotherapy. He lives in Newcastle upon Tyne with his wife and two children.

Speaking about his win, Andrew said: "It means a lot to me to win this award. My time at Northumbria University studying creative writing was very enjoyable, very challenging and I learned so much.

"When you're juggling a demanding day job with family life it can be hard to hold on to your writer identity, especially during the pandemic when work and home life have been busier than ever.

"This award couldn't have come at a better time and when the world settles down I look forward to using the award to get some intensive writing time back into my life and complete the novel."

The list of 2020 winners in full is:

Northern Writers' Awards for Fiction and Narrative Non-Fiction

Susan Barker

Ruqaya Izzidien

Rebecca Muddiman

Northern Writers' Awards for Poetry

Jennifer Lee Tsai

Suzannah V Evans

Hannah Hodgson

Polly Atkin

Fokkina McDonnell

Northumbria University Student and Alumni Award

Andrew Wilkinson

Hachette Children's Novel Award

Hannah Durkan

NorthBound Book Award

John D Rutter

Northern Debut Awards

Ruksana Abdul-Majid

Victoria Bennett

Gaynor Jones

TLC Free Reads Scheme

Mark Holmes

Dani Watson

The Sid Chaplin Award

Winner: Jodie Russian-Red

Highly Commended: Sarah Tarbit

Channel 4 Writing for Television Awards – Bonafide Films

Samantha Neale

Channel 4 Writing for Television Awards – Lime Pictures

Jenna Campbell

Andrea Badenoch Fiction Award

Sally Tottle

Arvon Award

Naomi Kelsey

Young Northern Writer Award

Winner: Katie Wilson

Highly Commended: Naomi Thomas, Wambui Hardcastle

Matthew Hale Award

Jessica de Beer

[Find out more about each of the winners on the New Writing North website.](#)

The Northern Writers' Awards are supported by Arts Council England and Northumbria University along with a host of publishing, media and higher education partners, including Channel 4 and Hachette Children's Group.

Judges for this year's awards included the writers Naomi Booth, Vahni Capildeo, Mitch Johnson and Amy Liptrot; literary agent Chloe Seager, from the Madeleine Milburn Agency; and editor Kris Doyle, from Picador.

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Contacts



Rik Kendall

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Business and Law / Arts, Design & Social Sciences

rik.kendall@northumbria.ac.uk

07923 382339



Andrea Slowey

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Engineering and Environment / Health and Life Sciences

andrea.slowey@northumbria.ac.uk

07708 509436



James Fox

Press Contact

Student Communications Manager

james2.fox@northumbria.ac.uk



Kelly Elliott

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

kelly2.elliott@northumbria.ac.uk



Rachael Barwick

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

rachael.barwick@northumbria.ac.uk

07377422415



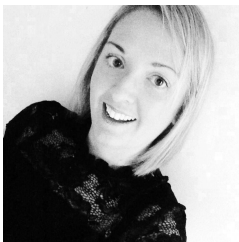
Ruth Lognonne

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

ruth.lognonne@northumbria.ac.uk

07971274253



Gemma Brown

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

gemma6.brown@northumbria.ac.uk