StAnza

Scotland's International Poetry Festival



How We Feel

14-16 March 2025 • St Andrews & Online

stanzapoetry.org

Welcome to StAnza 2025

When leading workshops, I occasionally ask: “What’s the difference between a poem and a story?”

“Poems rhyme!” is a common answer, or “Poems are shorter!”

But once, a young person raised their hand and said, “A poem is a concentration of feeling”. Wow. That answer so impressed me that I’ve let it inform this year’s festival. So, at StAnza 2025, we’re checking in with How We Feel.

For concentrated bursts of emotion, there is nothing more elegant or versatile than poetry. It’s why we write, it’s why we read, and it’s also why we gather. So, I’m grateful to you for joining us in what will be a festival of feeling.

Our programme of sensational authors will engage a range of emotions in poetry and conversation, but we are also adding sensory elements throughout the weekend. We don’t just get moved by words, but also have our senses tingled by sound, touch and scent. Together, we will feel our way through colour, we’ll feel through sound, music and play. We’ll use our hands to hold, to plant, to make.



We don’t want you to just hear the poetry, we want you to feel it.

Welcome back to StAnza.

Ryan Van Winkle,
Artistic Director.

Exhibitions

Our 2025 exhibitions explore ideas around feeling, both emotional and sensory. In these installations you’ll be invited to make, to touch, and to see poems in new ways. These works are free to visit.

Please Touch! by Gaelle Chassery and Dominika Jackowska
Byre theatre: Level 2 Foyer & Level 4 Foyer | 14-30 March

Fife Contemporary introduces our sensory exhibition, Please Touch!, featuring works by Gaelle Chassery and Dominika Jackowska, which is deliberately designed to be touched, felt, smelt, sensed and interacted with.

Chassery is a sensory artist working primarily in undyed wool and other yarns. Her crocheted and constructed textile sculptures are designed to be experienced by multiple senses - they are best experienced when held by exhibition visitors.

An animator and storyteller, Dominika Jackowska’s work blends animation technology and nature. Her interactive light box is a playful electronic installation, that combines drawing, light and movement to manipulate sound in real-time.

Part of our visual art and craft programme, produced in partnership with Fife Contemporary.

white cubes – a pop-up exhibition by off-page vispo
Byre theatre: Level 4 Foyer | 14-16 March

Framed and contained by one of the world’s most iconic pieces of display furniture, this group show reimagines two traditional formats – the white cube gallery and the poetry anthology. Come see the work and be inspired by this playful introduction to visual poetic practice off the page.

Glasgow Zine Library
Byre theatre: Level 1 Café | 11.00 15 March – 15.00 16 March

Discover Glasgow Zine Library’s collection of poetry zines and have a go at making your own. Drop in anytime and get stuck in.

Event Key

The Byre Theatre

North East Fife Community Hub

Wardlaw Museum

Online

Parliament Hall

Town Hall

Reading / Performance

Workshop

Livestreamed & In Person*

Music

Event will be captioned.

Event will be British Sign Language interpreted.

A hearing loop is available at the venue for this event.

*Where you see the Livestreamed symbol throughout this brochure, the listed event will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

All livestreamed events will have auto-generated captions available.







Friday 14th

ONLINE

Welcome to StAnza 2025

08:00 – 08:15 | YouTube | Free – drop-in.

A warm welcome to How We Feel from Artistic Director, **Ryan Van Winkle**.

ONLINE

Well-Versed; a creative writing workshop with Open Book

10:00 – 11:30 | Zoom | £5

Join performer, poet and facilitator, **Beth Godfrey** for an interactive and inspirational creative writing workshop.

Delivered in partnership with Open Book.

ONLINE THE BYRE

StAnza on Screen: a series of poetry films

10:00 – 17:30, 19:00 – 22:00 | Byre: Studio | Free – drop-in.

Drop into our screenings of a range of poetry films and vote for your favourite. The audience's choice will receive a £200 prize.

ONLINE

Round the World LIVE: South Korea

12:00 – 13:00 | YouTube | Free – drop-in.

Join us for this special, live session with poetry from **Don Mee Choi** and **Kim Hyesoon**.

Delivered in partnership with And Other Stories.

ONLINE

Writing Hour with Fife Writes

13:00 – 14:00 | Zoom | Free – booking required.

Join your fellow writers online for a reflective lunchtime session where you can put pen to paper, hosted by **Fife Writes**.

NORTH EAST FIFE COMMUNITY HUB

Bring Your Own Poem: a poetry sharing event

13:00 – 15:00 | North East Fife Community Hub | Free – drop-in.

Come along for this relaxed poem sharing event hosted by **Stewart Kerr** – feel free bring along a favourite poem or two to share, and enjoy listening to others share theirs.

THE BYRE

off-page: a visual poetry workshop

15:30 – 17:00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Want to expand your practice into physical spaces with new, creative ideas? Join the team behind **off-page**, Glasgow's annual anthology/ exhibition of visual poetry and the poetic visual, for a hands-on collaborative workshop.

THE BYRE

How We Feel: festival opening night

19:00 – 21:00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Join a plethora of poets for our opening night celebrations! Our event commences with a colourful cabaret featuring **CD Boyland, Charlotte Van den Broeck, Deborah Moffat, Hannah Copley, Patrick Errington, Theresa Lola, and Tim Tim Cheng** followed by a headline reading from **Ruth Padel**.

Supported by The Gaelic Books Council and sponsored by Lindores Distillery.

THE BYRE

Opening Night Clamjamfry

21:15 – 23:00 | Byre: Level 1 Café | Free – drop-in.

The Poetry DJ will be blending poetry and beats to keep you grooving as we hang out and enjoy some poetic happenings and interventions. It will be a night of playful surprises and warm chat.

ANNO MCXCI
LINDORES ABBEY
DISTILLERY

Saturday 15th

ONLINE

Slug at Midnight: Selima Hill in animation

09:00 – 09:45 | YouTube | Free – drop-in.

The Slug at Midnight and other poems from **Selima Hill** will be premiered in animated form. As we release these short pieces into the world, we'll discuss their creation and the work of the author in this live digital exclusive.

Delivered in partnership with Guillemot Press and Plymouth University.

THE BYRE

Masterclass with Jackie Kay: the short poem

10:00 – 11:00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Join **Jackie Kay** for a foray into the beauty of short poems, a form that packs a powerful punch, and have a go at writing one yourself.

THE BYRE

The Lantern Live with Charlotte Van den Broeck & Nuala Watt

10:00 – 11:00 | Byre: Studio | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Hosted by **Kathleen Jamie** and **Alistair Heather**, join **Charlotte Van den Broeck** and **Nuala Watt** for this live podcast recording as they read and delve into their poems.

Supported by Flanders Literature.

TOWN HALL

Unfolding Landscapes: a botanical ink and bookbinding workshop with Katie Fowlie

10:00 – 12:00 | Town Hall | Free – booking required.

Join last year's StAnza Artist-in-Residence, **Katie Fowlie**, for a captivating workshop based on her experiences of the festival exploring the relationship between words and place.

Part of our visual art and craft programme, produced in partnership with Fife Contemporary.

THE BYRE

Zine Clinic with Glasgow Zine Library

11:00 – 13:00 | Byre: Level 1 Café | Free – drop-in.

Want to make your own poetry zine? Got an idea but don't know where to start? Stuck between your awl and a bone folder? Come with your zine questions and confusions and the GZL team will get you on track.

THE BYRE

Border Crossings featuring Anna Crowe, Helena Fornells Nadal, Odile Kennel, Luis García Montero & Vahid Davar

11:30 – 12:30 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Since its founding, StAnza has been a Scottish festival with an international outlook, thanks in large part to the work of our founding artistic director, the poet and translator, **Anna Crowe**. In this special event, we've invited an international cohort of poets to present work that speaks to Anna and StAnza's deep commitment to poetry beyond borders.

Supported by the Goethe-Institut Glasgow.

THE BYRE

Get Loud! A Performance Poetry Workshop

11:30 – 12:30 | Byre: Studio | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Back after the success of last year's sold-out workshop, join multidisciplinary spoken word production company **I Am Loud** for their popular session on poetry performance!

THE BYRE

Sound/Poems with Hannah Silva & Harry Josephine Giles

13:00 – 14:00 | Byre: Studio | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Get lost in sound poetry with this performance from **Hannah Silva & Harry Josephine Giles**. Stunning vocals, machine glitches and deepening loops will make this resonate.

ONLINE THE BYRE

Writing Hour with Fife Writes

13:00 – 14:00 | Zoom & Byre: Conference Room | Free – booking required.

Join your fellow writers online and in-person for a reflective lunchtime session where you can put pen to paper, hosted by **Fife Writes**.

WARDLAW MUSEUM

Say No! Art, Activism and Feminist Refusal

13:00 – 14:00 | Wardlaw Museum: The Albany Gallery | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Join **Deborah Moffat, RJ Hunter, Theresa Lola and Tim Tim Cheng** for their poetic responses to the Wardlaw Museum's newest exhibition.

Supported by the University of St Andrews Collections and Museums and The Gaelic Books Council.

TOWN HALL

Unfolding Landscapes: a botanical ink and bookbinding workshop with Katie Fowlie

14:00 – 16:00 | Town Hall | Free – booking required.

Join last year's StAnza Artist-in-Residence, **Katie Fowlie**, for a captivating workshop based on her experiences of the festival exploring the relationship between words and place.

Part of our visual art and craft programme, produced in partnership with Fife Contemporary.

THE BYRE

Hold the Phone: poems for your ears only

14:00 – 18:00 | Byre: Level 2 Foyer | £5

An intimate one-to-one performance, for your ears only. **Don Mee Choi** (14.00 – 16.00) and **Mary Ruefle** (16.00 – 18.00) join us from across the globe for this very special immersive experience.

THE BYRE

Bards & Blether with Hannah Lavery & Jackie Kay

14:15 – 15:15 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Former Makar of Scotland, **Jackie Kay** and former Edinburgh Makar, **Hannah Lavery** join together for a blether and a sharing of poems.

Supported by the University of St Andrews School of English.

ONLINE

'Everything Shapes What It Encounters': John Burnside Creative Writing Workshop

14:30 – 16:00 | Zoom | £5

This workshop will be a space to remember the late **John Burnside**, engaging with his work on environment and place, with writing prompts inspired by his poetry.

THE BYRE

Masterclass with Gwyneth Lewis: delight

15:30 – 16:30 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

It's easy to get bogged down in the fear and dread of trying to write. Rejoin the childish pleasures of rhyme and word play as part of the most serious work, led by the evening's headliner, **Gwyneth Lewis**.

THE BYRE

Bad Betty Showcase

15:30 – 16:30 | Byre: Studio | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Bad Betty is an award-winning publisher and expert at delivering thrilling live literature experiences. Here we present three poets from their exquisite list: **Ashley Hickson-Lovence, Desree**, and **Jasmine Cooray**.

Delivered in partnership with Bad Betty Press.

THE BYRE

Seeds in the DIRT: a regenerative poetry walk

15:30 – 16:30 | Byre: Courtyard | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Gather under the trees in the Byre courtyard to begin a gentle poetry walk featuring collaborative poetry readings from **Alycia Pirmohamed, Hannah Copley, JLM Morton** and **Alice Willitts**.

Delivered in partnership with DIRT, an imprint of Dialect Press.

THE BYRE

Loud Poets Slam

16:45 – 18:30 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

The regional heat for the east of Scotland is here! The winner and runner up will compete in the Grand Slam at Edinburgh International Book Festival 2025 for a top prize of £3,000.

THE BYRE

Poetry London presents Janette Ayachi, Karen McCarthy Woolf & Paul Farley

17:00 – 18:00 | Byre: Studio | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Settle in for a feast of poetic delights, with readings from **Janette Ayachi, Karen McCarthy Woolf** and **Paul Farley**.

Delivered in partnership with Poetry London.

Saturday Night at StAnza

THE BYRE



Poetry Centre Stage: Gwyneth Lewis & Raymond Antrobus

19:00 – 20:45 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Wales' inaugural National Poet, **Gwyneth Lewis** and Ted Hughes Award-winner, **Raymond Antrobus** will read from their new collections.

Supported by the University of St Andrews School of English.

THE BYRE



Stupid Sexy Poem Show

21:30 – 22:30 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Fusing poetry, stand-up, cabaret and more, **RJ Hunter's** show is raucous, emotional, and hilarious.

THE BYRE



StAnza Open Mic

21:15 – 22:30 | Byre: Level 1 Café | Free – drop-in.

Hosted by **Jim Carruth**, enjoy an array of poets and poetic styles at this warm and welcoming open mic. Visit the Festival Desk or email stanza@stanzapoetry.org with the subject 'StAnza Open Mic' to request a slot.

ONLINE THE BYRE

StAnza on Screen: A Series of Poetry Films

18:30 – 23:00 | Byre: Studio | Free – drop-in

Drop into our screenings of a range of poetry films and vote for your favourite. The audience's choice will receive a £200 prize.

Sunday 16th

THE BYRE

Masterclass with Raymond Antrobus: The Real and the Imagined

10:00 – 11:00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Through a series of practical writing exercises and close readings of poems, you'll explore big questions about reality and imagination in a supportive environment with award-winning poet, **Raymond Antrobus**.

THE BYRE

Poetry Unbound Live with Sanah Ahsan & Sasha Dugdale

10:00 – 11:00 | Byre: Studio | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Hosted by **Pádraig Ó Tuama**, join **Sanah Ahsan** and **Sasha Dugdale** for this live podcast recording as they read and delve into their poems.

THE BYRE

Zine Clinic with Glasgow Zine Library

11:00 – 13:00 | Byre: Level 1 Café | Free – drop-in

Want to make your own poetry zine? Got an idea but don't know where to start? Stuck between your awl and a bone folder? Come with your zine questions and confusions and the GZL team will get you on track.

PARLIAMENT HALL

Poetry Market

11:00 – 15:00 | Lower Parliament Hall | Free – drop-in.

StAnza's poetry market returns. Drop in to Parliament Hall to visit our exhibiting poetry presses, magazines and artists.

ONLINE THE BYRE

The Work We Do: a Gaelic creative writing workshop

11:00 – 12:00 | Zoom & Byre: Conference Room | £5

Join **Christopher Whyte** – in-person or remotely – for an inspiring hybrid workshop where what matters is not the end result, but what we learn through the work we do. Participants are asked to bring a photograph, a postcard or an object which can act as the subject for a poem.

Supported by The Gaelic Books Council and Francis Boutle Publishers.

THE BYRE

Bards & Blether with Jen Hadfield & Peter Mackay

12:00 – 13:00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Ted Hughes Prize-winner, **Jen Hadfield** and Scotland's newest Makar, **Peter Mackay** join together for a blether and a sharing of poems.

THE BYRE

StAnza Presents Scotland's Young Makars 2025 with Len Pennie

12:00 – 13:00 | Byre: Studio | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Come along to hear work from the next generation of Scottish poets, alongside performance poet sensation, **Len Pennie**.

Supported by the Hugh Fraser Foundation and the David Summers Trust.

ONLINE THE BYRE

Writing Hour with Fife Writes

13:00 – 14:00 | Zoom & Byre: Conference Room | Free – booking required

Join your fellow writers online for a reflective lunchtime session where you can put pen to paper, hosted by **Fife Writes**.

THE BYRE

Joelle Taylor presents the StAnza & Poetry Association of Scotland John Masefield Lecture

13:30 – 14:30 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

This lecture, titled 'Resurrecting Ghosts', will consider how we interrogate and translate ourselves in published and performed poetry.

Supported by Poetry Association of Scotland.

THE BYRE

Triptych: Christopher Whyte, Helen Calcutt & Pádraig Ó Tuama

15:00 – 16:00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

In this powerful triptych of readings from **Christopher Whyte, Helen Calcutt** and **Pádraig Ó Tuama**, poets read from their latest works which contain darkness, yet also reach for the light.

Supported by The Gaelic Books Council.

THE BYRE

StAnza Poets in Residence: a presentation of new work

15:00 – 16:00 | Byre: Studio | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

This year's Poets in Residence share their creative reflections prompted by the StAnza 2025 festival theme.

Supported by the Edwin Morgan Trust through The Second Life Awards.

THE BYRE

Cut Up! Zine-making workshop with Harry Josephine Giles

16:30 – 17:45 | Byre: Conference Room | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Join award-winning writer and performer, **Harry Josephine Giles** and the team from the **Glasgow Zine Library** for a lively, practical session on creating your own poetry zine.

Delivered in partnership with Glasgow Zine Library.

TBA

Poetry as Protest

16:30 – 17:30 | Location to be announced | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Join **Lisa Fannen** and some of this year's festival poets for a gathering to explore the history of poetry as protest, asking ourselves and those around us, how do we feel?

THE BYRE

Shed

17:00 – 18:00 | Byre: Studio | £20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Somewhere along the Suffolk coast, Jack draws us in to the blur between fantasy and reality in his final hour, as he recounts the loss of his father in the war and finds solace in ritual and hoardings.

Shed is an intimate theatrical performance from writer, **Martin Figura**.



Sunday Night at StAnza

THE BYRE



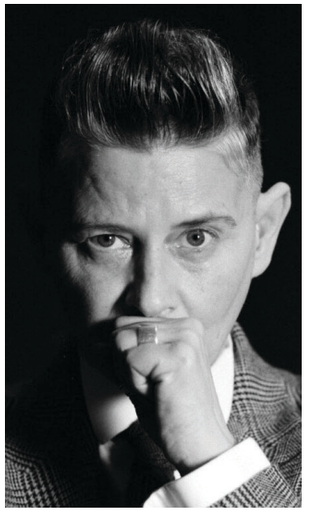
Poetry Centre Stage: Caroline Bird & Imtiaz Dharker

18:30 – 20:15 | Byre: Auditorium
£20 / £15 / £10 / £5

Celebrating Mirrorball's 20th anniversary we bring together two fan favourites from the long-standing reading series, award-winning poets **Caroline Bird** and **Imtiaz Dharker**.

Delivered in partnership with St Mungo's Mirrorball.

THE BYRE



Inklight presents How We Feel featuring Joelle Taylor

20:45 – 22:00 | Byre: Level 1 Café
Free - drop-in.

Closing out the 2025 festival, our friends at Inklight reflect on this year's theme with a curated series of readings, featuring **Joelle Taylor**.

ONLINE THE BYRE

StAnza on Screen: A Series of Poetry Films

18:30 – 22:00 | Byre: Studio | Free – drop-in.

Drop into our screenings of a range of poetry films and vote for your favourite. The audience's choice will receive a £200 prize.

Festival Information

Festival Desk: Located in the Level 2 Foyer, the festival desk provides answers to all your festival questions, gives directions to venues and can assist with planning your travels in and around St Andrews.

Bookshop & Signings: Our partners, Lighthouse Bookshop, will be on site in the Level 2 Foyer all weekend offering the latest collections from all our festival artists. They'll also be overseeing signings throughout each day, so be sure to stop by and top up your poetry library with some signed editions!

Accessibility: The Byre theatre, Parliament Hall, North East Fife Community Hub and Town Hall all offer level access throughout, as well as accessible toilets and space for wheelchair users in all event spaces, with unrestricted views. Wardlaw Museum is fully wheelchair accessible and has a lift.

The Byre theatre also offers a hearing loop – please let one of the Front of House volunteers know upon arrival if you would like to make use of this facility.

Our digital events will have closed or auto-generated captions and our headline evening events will be BSL interpreted.

For further access information, please visit stanzapoetry.org/festival/the-venues or get in touch by emailing stanza@stanzapoetry.org.

Our Venues

The Byre theatre: The Byre is our festival hub, where tickets can be bought and where most of StAnza's events and exhibitions are held. Located on Abbey Street, the Byre houses the Auditorium, the Studio, the Conference Room, the Level 2 Foyer, the Level 4 Foyer and the Level 1 Café.

Parliament Hall: Situated in St Mary's College, this is an active student hub during the week. Please note that this venue does not open until 10 minutes before an event starts.

Town Hall: Found on South Street, St Andrews Town Hall is a Category B listed building and municipal structure. This is where our bookbinding workshops will take place.

Wardlaw Museum: This museum houses a selection of the University of St Andrews' historic, artistic, and scientific collections across four galleries, and is found on The Scores.

North East Fife Community Hub: A community facility which hosts a wide range of events and activities to promote social inclusion, and is situated in the St Davids Centre, Albany Park.

Booking Information

Tickets go on general sale on Wednesday 22 January 2025. You can secure priority booking by becoming a Supporter of StAnza, which you can find out more about at **bit.ly/supportstanza**.

You can view the full programme at **www.stanzapoetry.org**, where you will also find the link to book online via the Byre theatre website. You can also purchase tickets in person at the Byre theatre or by calling the Box Office: 01334 475000.

StAnza offers a Pay What You Can ticketing structure. Price bands are £20, £15, £10 or £5 per ticket. Opting for the higher ticket tiers helps to "pay it forward', making the festival more accessible for everyone.

All ticketed digital events cost £5. A Digital Festival Pass is also available for £30 for unlimited access to all livestreamed events (please note: the digital pass does not include online workshops).

We want everyone to feel welcome at StAnza, no matter their circumstances.

For each major event, a small number of free tickets will be made available for those facing financial hardship to claim, no questions asked. For more information about this initiative and how to claim, please email **stanza@stanzapoetry.org** or call the Byre theatre box office on the number above.



1: Byre theatre
Festival Hub

2: Parliament Hall
3 min. walk from The Byre

3: North East Fife Community Hub
12 min. walk from The Byre

4: Town Hall
6 min. walk from The Byre

5: Wardlaw Museum
8 min. walk from The Byre

A huge thank you to all our StAnza Community.

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all of those who have given their support to make this year's festival possible. StAnza couldn't exist without the generosity, support and commitment of our partners, sponsors, staff, volunteers, Supporters and audiences.

We would like to extend particular gratitude to our Trustees:

Tim Cresswell (Chair)
Éadaoín Lynch (Vice Chair)
Rita Cummings
Peter Mackay / Padraig MacAoidh
Erin McElhinney
Christina Neuwirth
Jacob O'Sullivan

Festival Credits

How We Feel is brought to you by:

Ryan Van Winkle – Artistic Director
Suzie Kirk Dumitru – Executive Producer
Alistair Heather – Freelance Communications
Natalie Clark – Assistant Producer
James Boyer Smith – Technical Manager
Brochure Cover Image: *sea-worn relics* by Katie Fowlie.

Keep in Touch

Scan the QR code to join our mailing list and get all our latest news delivered straight to your inbox.

Email: stanza@stanzapoetry.org

Website: www.stanzapoetry.org

Follow StAnza: @stanzapoetry

CUT OUT AND KEEP

StAnza 2025 Weekend Planner

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	NOTES
08:00				
09:00				
10:00				
11:00				
12:00				
13:00				
14:00				
15:00				
16:00				
17:00				
18:00				
19:00				

StAnza Supporters

We can no longer rely on arts funding to support the arts in Scotland. Instead, we look to those who can afford it to make sure our cultural scene stays vibrant through these straitened times.

With 3 tiers available, you can become a regular StAnza Supporter and take advantage of exclusive benefits. Visit **bit.ly/supportstanza** or chat to one of our festival team at the Festival Desk for more information.

You can also support us with a one-off donation:
Tap to donate on one of our card machines at the festival – just ask a volunteer or donate online by scanning the QR code above or visiting **stanzapoetry.org/donate**

Funders

Creative Scotland – Alba | Chruthachail
University of St Andrews
Fife Council
The Stafford Trust
The William Syson Foundation
Edwin Morgan Trust
Hugh Fraser Foundation
Dr David Summers Charitable Trust

Partners & Supporters

And Other Stories
Bad Betty
Dialect Press
Fife Contemporary
Fife Writes
Flanders Literature
Francis Boutle Publishers
Glasgow Zine Library
Goethe Institut
I Am Loud
North East Fife Community Hub
off-page
Open Book
poetry london
Guillemot Press
St Mungo's Mirrorball
Comhairle nan Leabhraichean – The Gaelic Books Council
University of St Andrews
Wardlaw Museum
Lighthouse