

Wigtown POETRY PRIZE 2019



In association with The Gaelic Books Council, Moniack Mhor, Scottish Poetry Library, Scottish Review of Books and StAnza

WIGTOWN PRIZE £1500
RUNNER-UP £200

WIGTOWN SCOTS PRIZE £500
RUNNER-UP £200

WIGTOWN SCOTTISH GAELIC PRIZE £500
RUNNER-UP £200

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY FRESH VOICE AWARD
A PACKAGE OF PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT INCLUDING A
RESIDENCY AT MONIACK MHOR CREATIVE WRITING CENTRE

ALASTAIR REID PAMPHLET PRIZE
PRODUCTION OF A PAMPHLET SET BY GERRY CAMBRIDGE



CLOSING DATE: 7 JUNE 2019

For more information, rules or to enter online please visit www.wigtownpoetryprize.com
www.facebook.com/WigtownPoetryPrize or telephone 01988 402036

THE JUDGES

WIGTOWN POETRY COMPETITION 2018

Jane Lovell, *Starlings*

Starlings

We use folders of bamboo and deerbone
to construct you: slanted claw
and oilbead plumage, its gloss-speckle and lustre

crisp-folded on the cusp of winter.
Tweezers pin your reedy legs
and thorny beaks, wings blown

from mountain folds and pleats,
their feather-strata paper-cut-sharp
and glorious as angels'.

Evenings, we line you up in trees to roost,
wind you up to hear your clockwork gobbling
and deep space radio whirrs.

Each dawn, exhilarated by the light,
you sing in clicks and shrills, wolfwhistles
and bright cellophane twists,

then fly your squadron down to land
and dandle determinedly across the grass
to yesterday's pecked apples.

Fieldfares descend in reverse folds.
Unfazed you dance defence,
flyweight boxers on your thinstalk legs.

In dreams, we gather you in, gently open out
and press flat your mulberry squares,
their iridescent foil,

store you in a drawer, loose-wrapped
in leaves of tissue, for emergencies:
secret trapdoors to another life,

fast and dark and beautiful.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



**WIGTOWN PRIZE
AND ALASTAIR REID
PAMPHLET PRIZE**

John Burnside



**WIGTOWN
SCOTS PRIZE**

Gerda Stevenson



**WIGTOWN
SCOTTISH GAELIC
PRIZE**

Kevin MacNeil

**DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY
FRESH VOICE AWARD**

Open to poets living in or from Dumfries & Galloway who have never professionally published a full-length collection, but who show promise.

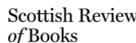
**NEW FOR 2019:
ALASTAIR REID PAMPHLET PRIZE**

Named in memory of the local poet who was one of Scotland's foremost literary figures, renowned for poetry, prose and translation.

Wigtown became Scotland's National Book Town in 1998, a mecca for booklovers drawn to this beautiful area of south-west Scotland by its secondhand bookshops and award-winning autumn literary festival. To find out more, go to www.explorewigtown.com.

Featuring more than 300 events, the 2019 Wigtown Book Festival takes place from 27 September - 6 October 2019. www.wigtownbookfestival.com.

PHOTO ON FRONT: ©DABHAND'S BLOG



Delivered by
Wigtown Festival Company
11 North Main Street,
Wigtown
Dumfries & Galloway
DG8 9HN

Wigtown Festival Company is limited by guarantee with charitable status. Charity number SC037984.