

UPDATE

The Robert Louis Stevenson Club June 2018



Writing with RLS

THREE talented young writers took part in a Master Class led by author Louise Welsh as the annual RLS Creative Writing Competition reached its happy conclusion.

The workshop experience in the 16th-century tower at Edinburgh Napier University, the Club's partner in staging the competition, gives young writers a springboard for their future development.

The three secondary pupils then enjoyed an informal reception with parents, teachers, friends and Club and university representatives, where Louise announced the winners and presented prizes.

Each received a certificate, a copy of *The Master of Ballantrae* and a cash prize to add to the memorable experience of working closely with an outstanding writer who is also Professor of Creative Writing at Glasgow University.

The Competition offers £100 prizes for Fiction, Reflective Writing, Poetry and, where appropriate, writing in Scots. Discretionary awards of £35 are made to selected Highly Commended entries.

This year's winners were Reyah Martin of Lenzie Academy (Poetry), Abbi Taylor of Portobello High School (Reflective Writing) and Iseabail Duncan of Banchory Academy (Fiction) who also won the George Addis Trophy for best entry overall but was unfortunately unable to attend on the day.

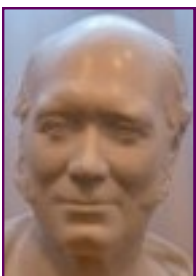
Erin Thomas of Portobello High School, Mia Kellner of Grove Academy, Broughty Ferry, and Alice Macduff Duncan of Banchory Academy all won Highly Commended awards.

Thanks again to Professor Linda Dryden and her colleagues at the University, which makes the competition possible, and Louise Welsh for giving the young people an unforgettable experience.



Memorable moment: Author Louise Welsh with Master Class participants Abbi Taylor, Reyah Martin and Erin Thomas

Student makings of an author



Robert Stevenson

THE student life of RLS was celebrated in March's talk to members by Jeremy Hodges at the former Baxter's Place home of his grandfather Robert Stevenson.

From Louis's academic record at Edinburgh University to

his own unorthodox education in the less salubrious parts of the city, the many influences that went into the making of a great writer were revealed.

Members then adjourned for lunch in what is now the Marriott Courtyard Hotel.

July 14 Annual General Meeting

THE Annual General Meeting of the Robert Louis Stevenson Club will be held in the Mackenzie Building of the Faculty of Advocates (Old Assembly Close, 172 High Street, Edinburgh) at 11.00am (Coffee from 10.30am), conducted by chairman David Reid.

The AGM is your chance to air your views and ideas for the Club's future development.

The RLS Club is always looking for new ways to celebrate and promote the life and works of RLS. Do put the date in your diary and come along.



Hyde side of Jekyll in guttural Glaswegian!

WHEN Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde came to Edinburgh, club members turned out to witness a remarkable performance by Phil Daniels in both roles at the King's Theatre in Edinburgh.

The brooding Victorian atmosphere of the original were well realised - albeit without the full conflict and latent power of Stevenson's classic novella - in David Edgar's somewhat free adaptation for this Touring Consortium Theatre Company production.

A large cast, sometimes acting as a chorus, carried the action in which Jekyll's sister, quite absent from Stevenson's

tale, was an interesting addition with her own back story, while Daniels (pictured) was outstanding, transforming from mild-mannered Henry Jekyll to bestial Edward Hyde without benefit of makeup or any special effects - simply a change of accent from polite Morningside to guttural Glaswegian!

Following the show, our group of 18 joined half a dozen younger members of the cast at nearby Henrick's Bistro Bar. Most were visiting Edinburgh for the first time, and all were delighted to meet RLS devotees in his native city.

JACK JOHNSTON

ROBERT Louis Stevenson will walk the sands of North Berwick once more when Club member Vincent Guy reprises last year's special event for our visitors from the European Network.

Join him and local young piper Jack Rigby for a musical stroll through Louis's childhood holiday haunts, later transformed by his imagination into classics such as Treasure Island. Meet at the Black Rock in Milsey Bay for

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NEWS IN BRIEF

2.30pm on September 2, ready to walk up to 1.5 miles for the whole event. Free but donations accepted for local charities.

●PLANS are in hand for a book to mark the Club's Centenary in November 2020, with several well-known writers, journalists and others ready to contribute, and some stimulating pieces already in our hands. We hope soon to approach potential publishers and James Mitchell has confirmed there will be an associated National Library of Scotland exhibition through autumn and spring of 2019/20

●NEW European data protection legislation requires us to seek permission from all members if they wish to continue receiving Club circulars by email. To do so please email your consent to rlstevenson131150@outlook.com

CLUB EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 1

RLS ON FILM

BE in at the birth of a movie when Sarah Purser and Tommy Gormley of Little White Rose Films outline their exciting plans for a £1.4 million film and theatre show entitled RLS A Beautiful Adventure. The pair will welcome our reaction to their projected theme. City Arts Centre, Market Street, Edinburgh, 2pm. Charge to cover hire of hall, £5 per person. Date may be subject to alteration - prebook with Margaret Wilkie by August 25.

OCTOBER 24

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

DR Patricia Andrew will discuss two portraits of Thomas and Robert Louis Stevenson and what they tell us about each other before a discussion where members can express their views. Royal Scots Club, Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, 2pm. Charge to cover hire hall hire, £3 per person. Pre-booking essential by October 19.

NOVEMBER 17

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

THE highlight of our club year. Full details in the Autumn RLS Club News.

DECEMBER 8

A CHRISTMAS SERMON

CLUB member the Rev John Munro will engage RLS (aka John Shedden) in a con-versation regarding his beliefs, followed by an open discussion on the faith (or lack of it) of RLS. Stockbridge Parish Church, Saxe-Coburg Place, 10.30 for morning coffee/tea. Charge of £3 per person. Pre-booking is essential by November 30.

BOOKING

To book an event or for more information, contact Events Secretary Margaret Wilkie at wilkiejl@blueyonder.co.uk or ring 0131 477 6738