

# NEW WRITING NORTH

## **New Writing North to manage the David Cohen Prize for Literature**

The literature development agency New Writing North will manage the David Cohen Prize for Literature from 2017.

The David Cohen Prize for Literature was established in 1992 and is one of the UK's most distinguished literary honours. Awarded biennially, the prize is worth £40,000 and recognises a living writer from the UK or the Republic of Ireland for a lifetime's achievement in literature. The prize was originally managed by Arts Council England and subsequently by BookTrust.

The David Cohen Prize for Literature has been awarded to dramatists, essayists, biographers, novelists and poets, including Tony Harrison in 2015.

The David Cohen Prize for Literature is funded by the John S Cohen Foundation, which was established by David Cohen and his family in 1965 to support education, the arts, conservation and the environment. Arts Council England funds an additional prize, the Clarissa Luard Award, which from 2017 will award £10,000 to an independent publisher to support the development of new writing.

Previous winners of the David Cohen Prize for Literature are:

2015 Tony Harrison

2013 Hilary Mantel

2011 Julian Barnes

2009 Seamus Heaney

2007 Derek Mahon

2005 Michael Holroyd

2003 Beryl Bainbridge and Thom Gunn (joint winners)

2001 Doris Lessing

1999 William Trevor

1997 Muriel Spark

1995 Harold Pinter

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1993 V S Naipaul

Mark Lawson will act as chair of the judges for his fourth term and the David Cohen Prize for Literature will be awarded in November 2017 at an event in London.

**Dr David Cohen, John S Cohen Foundation, said:** "I greatly welcome the involvement of New Writing North and I and my co-trustees look forward to working closely with them. I anticipate that with their help the David Cohen Prize for Literature will go from strength to strength."

**Claire Malcolm, chief executive of New Writing North said:** "It's a real pleasure to get to work on growing the profile of this generous and important prize. The prize is unique – it's our British equivalent to the Nobel Prize for Literature and as such deserves a much wider audience. We're looking forward to bringing the work of such amazing writers to a wide national audience."

**Sarah Crown, director of literature, Arts Council England, said:** "The David Cohen Prize for Literature is a unique and valuable feature of the UK's literary landscape. I am delighted that, thanks to its new home with New Writing North, its future is assured, and look forward to seeing it flourish under their stewardship."

**For all media enquiries, please contact:**

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## Notes to editor

**New Writing North** is the literature development agency for the North of England, and is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation [www.newwritingnorth.com](http://www.newwritingnorth.com). It works in partnership with regional and national partners to produce a range of literary and performance activities including flagship projects such as the David Cohen Prize for Literature, the Northern Writers' Awards, Cuckoo Young Writers, the Gordon Burn Prize and Durham Book Festival.