

## Word Factory Apprentice Award opens for entry

The Word Factory Apprentice Award has opened for entry until 3 May 2023. The award offers nine months of mentoring and a programme of support to two emerging short story writers.

In partnership with New Writing North, one of the places is offered as the Word Factory Northern Apprentice Award, part of the Northern Writers' Awards and is open to writers based in the North of England.

The other award is open UK-wide to an emerging short story writer whose work has a political ethos. It is inspired by the work of previous winner Uschi Gatward, who died around the time of publication of her debut collection, *English Magic* (Galley Beggar Press, 2021).

The 2023 award will be judged by the acclaimed writer Jessie Greengrass, who will mentor the Word Factory Northern Apprentice, and Cathy Galvin, founder and director of the Word Factory.

Alongside the mentoring programme, winners will receive a £1000 bursary, membership of the Society of Authors and access to a programme of developmental activities from Word Factory and New Writing North.

The Word Factory Apprentice Award was founded in 2014 by Cathy Galvin, founder of the Sunday Times Short Story Award, and Paul McVeigh, a Polari Prize winner. It has a history of bringing outstanding talent to the attention of the publishing industry.

The Northern Writers' Awards were founded in 2000 by New Writing North and are the biggest writer development programme in England. They support new work-in-progress from writers based in the North of England with £50,000 worth of cash awards, mentoring and developmental support.

Previous winners of the Word Factory Apprentice Award include Claire Adam (author of *Golden Child*, Faber, 2019); Melissa Fu (author of *Peach Blossom Spring*, Wildfire, 2022); and Northern Apprentice winners Melissa Wan, Sharon Telfer and Amy Stewart (all published in *Test Signal: Northern Anthology of New Writing*, Dead Ink and Bloomsbury, 2021).

**Jessie Greengrass said:** "I was honoured to be asked to mentor for the Word Factory Northern Apprentice Award this year. Mentoring is always a thrill – it's a privilege to be allowed to work with someone in detail, and often I end up feeling that I've learned more than I've helped. I'm excited to discover new work and new voices and to be given the opportunity to play a small part in their development."

**Cathy Galvin said:** "Sustainable literary relationships are at the heart of the Word Factory ethos and this important award. The team and I can't wait to work with our

latest winners and to read the work that will emerge over the next few months. We are proud of an award has also deepened the place of the short story in the literary landscape"

**Will Mackie, Senior Programme Manager (Talent Development) at New Writing North said:** 'Mentoring is the most effective form of support for a writer looking to develop their craft in writing short stories. As the Word Factory Northern Apprentice Award mentor, the brilliant Jessie Greengrass will support a talented new writer in our region as they bring their work to another level. We're delighted to be working with the Word Factory, who share our enthusiasm for and dedication to the short story form, to create this unique opportunity.'

*Entry is now open and closes on 3 May 2023.*

*To apply for the Word Factory Northern Apprentice Award, open to short story writers based in the North of England, visit [northernwritersawards.com](http://northernwritersawards.com)*

*Word Factory are also offering a UK-wide mentorship this year to an emerging short story writer whose works makes a political impact in memory of Apprentice Award winner Uschi Gatward. For more information visit: [www.thewordfactory.tv](http://www.thewordfactory.tv)*

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editor**

The winners of the Word Factory Apprentice Awards will be announced in July 2023.

### **About the judges and mentors**

**Jessie Greengrass** is an author living in Northumberland. Her short story collection, *An Account of the Decline of the Great Auk, According to One Who Saw it* won a Somerset Maugham Award and the Edge Hill Prize. Her debut novel, *Sight*, was shortlisted for the Women's Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. *The High House*, published in 2021, was shortlisted for the Costa Novel Award and the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction.

**Cathy Galvin** is a poet, journalist and editor. She founded the Word Factory and the Sunday Times Short Story Award. She's currently a PhD candidate at Goldsmiths, University of London and a Trustee of English PEN. [www.cathygalvin.com](http://www.cathygalvin.com)

### **About the partners**

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**New Writing North** is the development agency for creative writing and reading in the North of England. Based in Newcastle upon Tyne since 1996, it is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

The organisation works in partnership with regional and national partners to produce a range of literary and performance activities including flagship projects such as the Northern Writers' Awards, Young Writers, the Gordon Burn Prize, Durham Book Festival and Read Regional.

New Writing North specialises in developing and investing in writers of all ages and act as a dynamic broker between writers, producers, publishers and broadcasters across the creative industries. Current partners include BBC Radio 3, Channel 4 Drama, Faber and Faber, Hachette Children's Group, Northumbria University and Durham University.

As a producer of new work, New Writing North commissions a wide range of writing from topical essays and publications to award-winning dance theatre productions, short films, live literature and broadcast projects.

New Writing North's extensive and award-winning Young Writers programme develops the creativity and skills of young people. Work in schools with children and their teachers is complemented by a large and diverse out-of-school programme that is open to all, with a special focus on areas with fewer opportunities.

As a promoter and producer of festivals and literary events and through its partnerships with schools, libraries, universities and prisons, New Writing North engages audiences with enriching and creative reading experiences.

The Northern Writers' Awards are its central platform for discovering and developing new writers from across the region, and were founded in 2000. More information about the Northern Writers' Awards is available at [www.northernwritersawards.com](http://www.northernwritersawards.com).

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**Word Factory** creates literary excellence and long-term relationships supporting the next generation of short story writers. We are a team of writers with a track record in securing national reputation, publication and representation for those we work with.