



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**17 July 2014**

### **13 UK ORGANISATIONS SHARE OVER £100,000 IN THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ROUND OF GRANTS FOR THE CLORE POETRY AND LITERATURE AWARDS**

13 organisations across the UK have been announced as recipients of £109,123 in grants from the 6<sup>th</sup> round of the Clore Poetry and Literature Awards funded by the Clore Duffield Foundation.

The Clore Poetry and Literature Awards, founded in 2011, specifically target the development of imaginative new ways to engage children and young people in the experience of poetry and literature, both in and out of school. They represent a £1 million strategic investment in poetry and literature for young people in the UK.

The recipients are:

#### **Arts Alive Wales for *Caban Sgriblio (The Scribbling Cabin)***

**Award: £9,970** (Wales)

Arts Alive Wales is an educational arts charity based in Powys aiming to enhance the quality of life for rural communities. 50 young people, identified through Powys education and health partners, will attend writing workshops exploring the work of contemporary Welsh poets: they will perform their works on film to create their own digital voice. An aim of the project is to improve their resilience, confidence and aspirations. The need for the project is well demonstrated and it is seen as a pilot for further work.

#### **ArtsEkta for *Writing 'Home'***

**Award: £10,000** (Northern Ireland)

ArtsEkta is a social enterprise in Belfast which focuses on cross-cultural activities and communities. The project will use reading and creative writing to explore and challenge the idea of 'home' and belonging with a range of young people from different backgrounds and communities. They will explore a range of literature and write their own work to be showcased at a one-day literary festival in the Ulster Hall. They will then participate in an international story exchange through a digital forum.

#### **Astor Community Theatre for *Tell me a story – A Children's Book Festival***

**Award: £5,650** (South East)

Astor Community Theatre in Deal, Kent, is becoming central to the local community across a wide range of art forms. In partnership with Sandown Primary School it plans to work towards a Children's Book Festival. Teachers will introduce classic children's literature to all ages in the school and two writers will then work with each year group on their own writing, culminating in an exhibition and performance at the book festival, to be held at the Theatre in July. The focus on an improving school in a disadvantaged area – linked to a local cultural venue is noteworthy – particularly as it involves all children in the School.

### **Bath Festivals for *Home Grown***

**Award: £8,754** (South West)

Bath Festivals has a strong emphasis on education, delivered through year round projects as well as through the three Festivals; the Independent Bath Literature Festival, Bath International Music Festival and the Telegraph Bath Children's Literature Festival. This project focuses on engaging 30 young people at risk of offending and exclusion from school, in partnership with local youth development charity Mentoring Plus. Its purpose is to use spoken word poetry to explore literature and language in an accessible way and to develop the skills and confidence of the young people involved. It also aims to increase English teachers' understanding of alternative ways to engage vulnerable young people with literature and creative writing. The work will run over six months and lead to performances as part of the Festivals 2015. The inclusion of these young people in the Festivals – and the expectation of a further two-year roll-out of the project – make it significant.

### **Beam for *The Castle of Dreams***

**Awarded: £8,200** (Yorkshire)

Beam is an arts company based in Wakefield who created and programme Wakefield Lit Fest. The Castle of Dreams project takes a local ruined castle as the site for exploring classic literature on the theme of castles by 180 young people aged 4-19, drawn from three local primaries, one secondary school and a further education college. It will culminate in an event where intergenerational community performers will present the young people's work at the Castle during the Lit Fest in September. The choice of supporting classic literature provides an excellent starting point for the children's work.

### **Commonword for *The Frankenscience of Poetry***

**Award: £8,472** (North West)

Commonword aims to develop new young writers as well as established ones in the Manchester area. Sixteen young people will participate in nine workshops which will link classic romantic literature with scientific collections at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. Their work will be available through online platforms and final 'filmpoems' will form part of the Manchester Science Festival. The connection between literature and science is inventive and well considered.

### **First Story for Dixons Allerton School**

**Awarded: £9,273** (Yorkshire)

The School will work with First Story on an intensive year-long residency by an established writer. There will be weekly after-school workshops, together with participation in the Young Writers' Festival in Oxford, a writing competition and a week's residential in Somerset. The School has not done anything like this before, is in a challenging environment and is making a significant contribution to the budget.

### **The George Mackay Brown Fellowship for *Creative Heritage Project***

**Award: £9,990** (Scotland)

Wirdsmit creative writing groups for children living in Orkney have become part of the George Mackay Brown Fellowship. The children will explore Orkney writers and their legacy to create an interactive map to be displayed in the new Stromness Library which is due to open this autumn. The project is well-grounded in local culture and will include poetry, prose, legend and folklore from the area.

### **Gilmour Infant School for *Tagging Garston***

**Award: £9,400** (North West)

Pupils at this Infants school will work with local published writers to produce a series of stories about Garston. Local published writers will create a reading list of texts which will encourage exploration of how writers have used the locality as context and inspiration. A website and an app will be the platform for disseminating the children's work. Teachers will work with Liverpool-based writers as well as members of the Garston Historical Society and FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology). The project integrates IT and research and new literary experiences. This network and the activities represent an interesting community model.

### **Keats House for *Modern Myths at Keats House***

**Awarded: £1,640** (London)

Keats House proposes to extend the reach of its educational workshops beyond local schools and to develop lasting partnerships. Four new schools have already agreed to take part. Workshops will take place at Keats House and the local Keats Community library and will be led by young people's writers. Students will study some of Keats's poems, together with ballads, songs and myths. They will then create their own modern myths, using Keats as inspiration. The ambition is to reach more young people and to enable them to appreciate Keats in a contemporary way.

### **The Reader Organisation for *Connect at Calderstones***

**Award: £7,774** (North West)

The Reader Organisation is a national charity based in Liverpool which has recently acquired Calderstones Mansion House, to be established as an international centre for reading and wellbeing. It plans a children's literature festival which would involve 2,000 people from across the region. Ten hard-to-reach young people (aged 16-19) will be directly involved in the planning and delivery of the festival. They will explore literature for teenagers with a view to curating events at the festival. This is a pilot project and legacy planning is in place which includes the young people remaining involved as Reader Organisation ambassadors.

### **The Story Museum for *Learn to become a literature producer***

**Award: £10,000** (South East)

The Story Museum is a centre for children's literature and story-telling which opened the first phase of its building in Oxford in April 2014. A group of 15 local teenagers from a disadvantaged area of Oxford will be introduced to a range of literary events and then supported to create a pilot programme of events for other teenagers, which they will produce, market and evaluate. They will use social media to reach new teenage audiences. The Museum hopes that 300 young people will benefit. The young people will develop a wide range of new skills, and be active in a new venture which is literature-based.

### **The Verbal Arts Centre for *Reading Rooms***

**Award: £10,000** (Northern Ireland)

The Verbal Arts Centre, Londonderry, is a literature charity. Having successfully developed reading groups (Reading Rooms) for adults, the Centre proposes to develop Young Persons' Reading Rooms. These will introduce vulnerable young people to great literature and build their communication skills. The young people will work with volunteers on a one-to-one basis, over six months, before joining open groups. The volunteers will be specifically trained for the project by the professional

staff. The project seeks to take seriously the needs of these young people to engage with adults and with reading.

**Sally Bacon**, Director of the Clore Duffield Foundation, said:

*“There is no decline in the quality or the volume of applications coming to us for funding and we were pleased to see such a diverse range of projects receiving Awards in this round. We’ve been particularly pleased to see some creative connections between literature and science; some really interesting work with hard-to-reach or vulnerable older teenagers; and influences spanning early 19<sup>th</sup> century poetry, folklore, classic literature on the theme of castles, and local history.”*

The Clore Duffield Foundation is a grant-making charity which concentrates its support on cultural learning, creating learning spaces within arts and heritage organisations, leadership training for the cultural and social sectors, social care, and enhancing Jewish life. The Foundation is chaired by Dame Vivien Duffield DBE and celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

The closing date for entries to Round 7 of the Clore Poetry and Literature Awards is **Friday 6 March 2015**. For full details go to [www.cloreduffield.org.uk](http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk)

The Clore Duffield Foundation is a supporter of the Cultural Learning Alliance, a collective voice working to ensure that all children and young people have access to culture. Sign up to the Alliance: [www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk](http://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk)

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