



Info sheet: Resources for writers and literature professionals in Northern Ireland

This information sheet has been compiled by The Writer's Compass and LitNet NI to give you an idea of the wide range of resources available in Northern Ireland to support writers and literature professionals. It does not claim to be in any way a definitive listing.

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Funding and development agencies for the arts

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland

The lead development agency for the arts in Northern Ireland. Funding for writers is available through the Support for the Individual Artist Programme (SIAP). Funding schemes available within the current SIAP programme include: General Art Awards (max £1,500), Self-arranged Residencies (max £5,000), Major Individual Awards (2 awards of £15,000), Artists' Career Enhancement Scheme (£5,000) and Travel Awards (covers air travel at specified rates). There is a rolling programme for Travel Awards (you must apply at least four weeks before your anticipated date of departure) – all the other schemes operate on a deadline basis. Extensive guidance notes can be downloaded from the funding section of the website. www.artscouncil-ni.org

Foras na Gaeilge

The body responsible for the promotion of the Irish language throughout the whole island of Ireland. <http://www.forasnagaeilge.ie>

Northern Ireland Screen

The national screen agency for Northern Ireland. Main areas of activity include funding; locations, services and facilities; exhibition and audience development; education; business support, skills and training. <http://www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk/>

Sector skills councils

Creative and Cultural Skills

The Sector Skills Council for advertising, crafts, cultural heritage, design, music, performing, literary and visual arts. Its Creative Choices website www.creative-choices.co.uk provides access to tools, networks and resources to help you get in, and get on, in the creative industries and cultural sector. The Northern Ireland office is in Belfast. <http://www.ccskills.org.uk/>

Skillset

The Sector Skills Council for Creative Media which comprises TV, film, radio, interactive media, animation, computer games, facilities, photo imaging and publishing. Provides specialist careers information and advice whatever stage you're at. Skillset Northern Ireland is based in Belfast. <http://www.skillset.org/uk/ni/>

Business and professional development support

Business to Arts

Works with artists and arts organizations providing a range of training opportunities and coaching to help diversify income streams, grow audiences and improve efficiencies.

<http://www.businessstoarts.ie/B2A-Home/index.ph>

HM Revenue and Customs

Information and advice on tax and national insurance is available on an individual basis from your local Business Support Team or you can join a free workshop – topics include newly self-employed, business expenses and capital allowances and self-assessment online.

Check www.hmrc.gov.uk/bst for details of the team nearest to you. Website has downloadable leaflets on self-employment, self- assessment etc.

www.hmrc.gov.uk

LitNet NI

Literature development organization supporting writers and literature professionals working in Northern Ireland. (See entry on next page for more details)

<http://www.litnetni.com/>

nibusinessinfo.co.uk

Northern Ireland's online business advice service.

<http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/>

The Writer's Compass

Provides a range of free information and advice services for writers including a fully searchable online directory of professional development opportunities; a fortnightly jobs and opportunities e-bulletin; an information and advice helpline; professional development planning and coaching; and a wide range of information sheets, 'how to' factsheets and other resources. Also acts as an information and advice resource for all involved in writer development. It is the professional development arm of the National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE).

www.nawe.co.uk

National literature, writers' and cultural organizations and websites

Culture Northern Ireland

Comprehensive online guide to cultural events and news across Northern Ireland.

<http://www.culturenorthernireland.org/>

John Hewitt Society

Cross-community initiative to explore the arts, culture and politics of north of Ireland in an international context. Best known for its annual summer school.

<http://www.johnhewittsociety.org/news.php>

LitNet NI

Literature development organization supporting writers and literature professionals working in Northern Ireland. Runs a Professional Development and Mentoring programme for writers and literature workers, an annual conference and a literature forum.

<http://www.litnetni.com/>

Northern Ireland Theatre Organization (NITA)

NITA is the body for professional and semi-professional theatre in Northern Ireland. It provides a collective voice for the theatre sector. The website lists theatre groups in NI.

<http://www.nitatheatre.org/index.php>

Poetry Ireland

The national organization dedicated to developing, supporting and promoting poetry through Ireland. Publications, readings, education (runs the Writers in Schools scheme), information and resource service.

www.poetryireland.ie

Publishing NI

A new organisation launched with the aim of promoting Northern Irish writers, publishers and books. Amongst their planned activities is a series of touring events in arts and tourism centres around Northern Ireland at which writers will read from their work and books will be available for purchase. A website is still under development.

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI Ireland)

A society for anyone who lives in Ireland and writes and/or illustrates stories for children.

Members meet together for seminars, workshops and conferences on all aspects of writing, illustrating and getting published.

<http://scbwi-ireland.jimdo.com>

The Society of Authors

The Society lobbies MPs, litigates in matters of importance and campaigns for better terms for writers. Membership is open to authors who have had a full-length work published, broadcast or performed commercially in the UK. There is currently no regional branch in NI.

<http://www.societyofauthors.net/>

Tinderbox Theatre Company

One of Northern Ireland's longest established independent theatre companies, dedicated to new writing for the theatre. Based in Belfast.

<http://www.tinderbox.org.uk/>

The Writers' Guild

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain supports writers of all levels of experience, across media, including books, film, online, radio, theatre, TV and videogames. It campaigns for writers and negotiates agreements to secure the best possible pay and conditions.

<http://www.writersguild.org.uk/>

Scriobh

Website for writers in the Irish language. It is not about literature, but something that points to other sites where dictionaries, spellcheckers, and other pertinent resources can be found.

www.scriobh.ie

Verbal Arts Centre

Promotes the language arts, working in three main areas: education, youth and community development, and art form / reading development, throughout the North West region.

www.verbalartscentre.co.uk

Voluntary Arts Ireland

Draws together voluntary arts and crafts group to provide them with information, advice and training. Promotes volunteering and the arts in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

www.vaireland.org

Literature and reader development

Children's Books Ireland

Aims to engage young people with books, create greater understanding of the importance of books for young people and resource everyone with an interest in books for children.

Maintains a comprehensive online resource for everyone interested in writing and illustrating for children.

www.childrensbooksireland.com

LibrariesNI

Public libraries and information services across Northern Ireland

<http://www.ni-libraries.net/>

Linen Hall Library

The oldest library in Belfast and the last subscribing library in Ireland. Unique collections include Irish and Local Studies Collection, Early Belfast and Ulster printed books, the Northern Ireland Political Collection and the Northern Ireland Theatre and Performing Arts Archive. Free public reference use.

<http://www.linenhall.com/>

National Association for Literature Development (NALD)

The professional body for all involved in developing writers, readers and literature audiences.

<http://www.literaturedevelopment.co.uk/>

Reading Association of Ireland

Affiliated to the International Reading Association which aims to promote literacy worldwide.

Runs the biennial Children's Book Awards.

<http://www.reading.ie/>

Creative writing courses

Belfast Metropolitan College

Offer creative writing for beginners and journalism courses

<http://www.belfastmet.ac.uk/>

Blick Studios

Creative Crowd Arts Courses that include creative writing and drama. Check Blick schedule for details.

<http://www.blickstudios.org/11,1-70,regular-classes-and-workshops#post-70>

Crescent Arts Centre

Programme of classes in the verbal and dramatic arts.

www.crescentarts.org

Millennium Courts Arts Centre

Run an educational programme including creative writing classes. Check website for details.

<http://www.millenniumcourt.org/>

North West Regional College, Northside, Londonderry

Offer a creative writing course one evening a week. Check website for details.

<http://www.nwrc.ac.uk/>

Open University

Offers several standalone modules in creative writing.

<http://www3.open.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/course/a215.htm>

Queen's University Belfast

MA and PhDs in Creative Writing. Offers strands in poetry, fiction and scriptwriting

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SeamusHeaneyCentreforPoetry/CreativeWriting/>

The Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry Summer School

Is designed to further interests in creative writing and/or the study of contemporary literature.

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SeamusHeaneyCentreforPoetry/SummerSchool2010/>

South Eastern Regional College

National Open College Network (NOCN) Creative Writing: provides an introduction to creative writing techniques and skills. Check website for availability and campus.

<http://www.serc.ac.uk/>

Verbal Arts Centre (in association with the University of Ulster)

Offer several educational programmes for children and adults, including an MA in Creative Writing (in conjunction with the University of Ulster)

www.verbalartscentre.co.uk

Retreats

Anam Cara

Retreat for writers and artists in Beara, Co. Cork

<http://www.anamcararetreat.com/>

Creative Writers' Workshop Residential Writing Retreats

Offers workshop-type retreats on work-in-progress, fiction, and memoir writing in various locations (Sligo, Galway, Wicklow, Burren)

<http://www.thecreativewritersworkshop.com/>

Tyrone Guthrie at Annaghmakerrig

A residential workplace at Newbliss Co. Monaghan open to artists in all art forms. Retreats for a maximum of 3 months full board or 6 months self-catering.

<http://www.tyroneguthrie.ie/>

Publishing in Northern Ireland

CLÉ: Irish Book Publishers' Association

Cross-border organization whose members comprise most of the major publishing houses in Ireland. Provides industry information, advice on copyright, marketing, training, international opportunities.

www.publishingireland.com

Northern Ireland Publications Resource

NIPR acquires and preserves at least one copy of every book, pamphlet, periodical and report published in Northern Ireland since January 2000. Website is also provides useful information for self-publishers and writers.

<http://www.nibooks.org>

Appletree Press

Belfast based publisher of gift, humour and illustrated books on Ireland and N. Ireland

<http://www.appletree.ie/>

Belfast Society

In conjunction with the Ulster Historical Foundation, the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society occasionally publishes books and pamphlets on topics of local interest.

<http://belfastsociety.com/index.html>

Blackstaff Press

Northern Ireland's leading publisher. Belfast based publisher of a wide range of categories, including fiction, sport, cookery, travel and poetry.

www.blackstaffpress.com

Booklink Ltd.

Special interest publishing company producing mainly illustrated coffee-table type books, with direct sales to customers, corporations and trade. Based in Holywood, Co. Down.
Email Claude Costecalde: claudecostecalde@googlemail.com

Brehon Press

Belfast-based publisher specialising in local history, biography, sports, humour, and general non-fiction titles.
Email: brehonpress@aol.com

Colourpoint Books

Publishers of educational books and mainly specialised trade books on Irish interests, transport as well as some fiction. Divisions include Mimo distribution and April Sky (self-publishing services). Based in Newtownards.
www.colourpoint.co.uk

Dog Ears

Based in Londonderry (share office with Yes! Publications), publisher of children's books and book apps.
Email: laura@cheersdogears.com

Guildhall Press

Londonderry based publisher of fiction and (mostly local) non-fiction.
<http://www.ghpress.com/catalog/>

Lagan Press

Publishes works of literary, artistic, social and cultural importance to the north of Ireland, with a literary emphasis on those forms which are essentially non-commercial, especially poetry, drama and literary fiction. Committed to supporting new writers and those writing in the Irish language.
<http://www.lagan-press.org.uk/>

Laurel Cottage

Based in Donaghadee, Laurel publish illustrated local books and prints of Ireland and England under Cottage Publications and Ballyhay Books imprints.
cottage-publications.com

Lapwing Publications

Small poetry press based in Belfast that has been publishing local and international poets for over twenty years.
<http://www.freewebs.com/lapwingpoetry/>

O'Donnell Press

Independent publisher of children's books based at Jordanstown.
<http://www.odonnellpress.com/>

Shanway Press

Printing company in Belfast that produces books, from novels to award winning high quality specialist volumes, as well as ecclesiastical leaflets, annual reports and magazines.
<http://www.shanway.com/index.html>

Ullans Press

The publishing wing of the Ulster-Scots Language Society. Ullans is also the name of the Society's journal.

<http://www.ulsterscotslanguage.com/en/about-us/>

White Row Press

A small Belfast-based publisher of Irish interest books.

www.whiterowpress.com/index.htm

Yes! Publications

Londonderry based community publisher

<http://yespublications.org/about/index.html>

Literary agents

The Feldstein Agency

Based in Bangor, the Feldstein Agency offers a range of services including literary agenting and scouting; rights sales; international sales and distribution consulting; editorial services (commissioning, script development, ghostwriting, copy editing) and book packaging and project management.

<http://www.thefeldsteinagency.co.uk/>

The Wordsmith's Forge (Bill Jeffrey)

Part time literary agent

Tel: 44 28 90284163

Email: bill.jeffrey@hotmail.co.uk

Editorial services

Hilary Bell

Tel: 028 4488 1575

Email: hilarybelleditor@btinternet.com

Averill Buchanan

Tel: 028 9050 3449 | Mob: 07875 857278

Web: www.averillbuchanan.com

Email: averill@averillbuchanan.com

All Things Write (Ruth Carr)

Tel: 028 9087 4861 | 07800 760 950

Email: rcarr21@hotmail.com

Jane Crosbie (Laurel Cottage Publications)

Tel: 028 9146 0064

Email jemcrosbie@btinternet.com

Editing Works (Emma Hegarty)

Mob: 07920 249296

Web: www.editingworks.co.uk

Email: emma@editingworks.co.uk

Editorial Solutions (Ireland) Ltd.

Tel: 028 9033 1971

Web: www.editorialsolutions.com

Email: sheelagh@editorialsolutions.com

Joan Erskine

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Tel: 0790 1967 947

Email: wordworks@fastmail.fm

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Email: mary_morrow@btinternet.com

Literary awards and fellowships in Northern Ireland

Cúirt New Writing Prize

Based at Galway Arts Centre, this prize offers emerging writers of poetry and fiction a chance to receive recognition at an international literary event.

www.cuirt.ie

Hennessy X.O Literary Awards (in association with The Sunday Tribune)

Annual award supporting new writing talent. Three categories: First Fiction, Merging Fiction and Emerging Poetry.

<http://www.tribune.ie/arts/books/article/2009/jun/28/rules-hennessey-irish-literary-awards/>

The Seamus Heaney Centre Prize for Poetry

Prize awarded annually to the writer of the best first collection published in the UK or Ireland in the preceding year.

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SeamusHeaneyCentreforPoetry/>

Stewart Parker Trust Playwriting Bursaries

Open to new playwrights. Prizes: New Playwright Bursary (£7,500); BBC Radio Drama Award (£1,000); BBC Radio Drama Award in the Irish Language (£1,000).

Stewart Parker Trust, Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN

Email: jfairleigh@eircom.net

The Tony Doyle Bursary Award for New Writing

Run by BBC Northern Ireland, this is an annual award of £2,000 made for the most promising new writing for television. Seven short-listed finalists also get the opportunity to attend scriptwriting sessions with members of BBC Northern Ireland Drama's development team and with top script writers and producers.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/insight/tony_doyle_bursary.shtml

Literary and cultural magazines

Fortnight Magazine

Monthly magazine providing incisive commentary on the politics, arts and culture of Northern Ireland. Welcomes submissions by new writers.

<http://www.fortnight.org/>

Irish Pages

Biannual journal, edited in Belfast, publishing poetry, short fiction, essays, creative non-fiction, memoir, essay reviews, nature-writing, translated work, literary journalism, and other autobiographical, historical, religious and scientific writing of literary distinction from Ireland and overseas.

www.irishpages.org

New Irish Writing (The Sunday Tribune)

Published on the first Sunday of every month. Open to new and emerging writers who are Irish or normally resident in Ireland and whose work has yet to appear in book form under an established publishing imprint. All stories and poems published are eligible for the annual Hennessy X.O Literary Awards.

<http://www.tribune.ie/arts/books/article/2009/jun/28/rules-hennessey-irish-literary-awards/>

Poetry Ireland Review

Available quarterly, the Poetry Ireland Review publishes the work of both emerging and established Irish and international poets.

<http://www.poetryireland.ie/publications/poetry-review.html>

Vacuum Magazine

Published by Factotum, a Belfast-based arts organization, the magazine contains commentary and reviews by sharp local writers. Each issue is themed and contains critical commentary about the city and broader cultural issues.

<http://www.thevacuum.org.uk/>

Verbal Magazine

Londonderry based monthly magazine of reviews and articles about books and writers in Ireland

<http://verbalon.com/magazine/>

Literary festivals and events

Aspects Literature Festival (September)

The best Irish literature festival in Northern Ireland presents a week-long series of events to suit all tastes in the Bangor and North Down area.

<http://www.northdown.gov.uk/template1.asp?parent=397&pid=985&parent2=985&area=6>

Between the Lines Literary Festival (April)

Annual festival run by the Crescent Arts Centre in Belfast.

www.crescentarts.org

British and Irish Contemporary Poetry Conference

At The Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, Queen's University Belfast

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SeamusHeaneyCentreforPoetry/BritishandIrishContemporaryPoetryConference/>

Cathedral Quarter Festival (April-May)

Annual festival with a strong literary strand to the programme.

www.cqaf.com

Crescent Arts Centre

Runs a programme of literature and writing events throughout the year.

<http://www.crescentarts.org/tag/programme/>

Linen Hall Library

Runs lots of good literature events. One of the most significant literature venues in NI.

www.linenhall.com

The English Society (School of English, Queen's University, Belfast)

Runs a series of high-profile literary events with big-name authors.

www.qub.ac.uk/en

The Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry

The Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's University is a dynamic and vibrant focal point in Ireland for the writing, criticism and appreciation of modern literature.

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SeamusHeaneyCentreforPoetry/Events/>

Culture Northern Ireland

Events listings, features, reviews

<http://www.culturenorthernireland.org/>

WhatsOnNI.com

Northern Ireland's What's on Events Guide. The place to go when you're looking for something to do or if you have an event of your own to promote.

<http://www.whatsonni.com/>

Writing in educational, community and healthcare settings

Arts and Disability Forum

The umbrella organization for arts and disability in Northern Ireland. Promotes equal access to mainstream arts (including literature) for people with disabilities, both as artists and audiences.

<http://www.adf.ie/>

Arts Care

Arts and health charity which works in partnership with health and social care trusts throughout Northern Ireland to bring all forms of art into health and social care settings.

<http://www.artscare.co.uk/>

Community Arts Forum

The umbrella body for community arts in Northern Ireland. Produces a free weekly newsletter and maintains an online directory of individuals and organizations working in the field.

www.caf.ie

Lapidus

Membership organization promoting the benefits of the literary arts for personal development, health and wellbeing. Annual conference, regional groups, quarterly magazine and other online resources. There is no local group in Northern Ireland ... yet!

www.lapidus.org.uk

New Belfast Community Arts Initiative

Committed to supporting individuals and communities through the arts. Offers a workshop programme that provides real opportunities for growth and renewal and celebrates the innate talent within the city.

<http://www.newbelfastarts.org/>

The National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE)

The one organization supporting the development of creative writing of all genres and in all educational and community settings throughout the UK. Publications, events, training, online resources, disclosure processing. Free public liability insurance cover for professional members. The Writer's Compass is its professional development arm.

www.nawe.co.uk

Prison Arts Foundation

Aims to release the creative self of all prisoners, ex-prisoners, young offenders and ex-young offenders in Northern Ireland using all of the arts and crafts including writing, drama, fine art, craft, music and dance.

www.prisonartsfoundation.com

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