



National Centre for
Children's Literature

Gavin Wallace Fellowship Writer in Residence 2020

Hosted by

The National Centre for Children's Literature & Storytelling

In association with Creative Scotland

Moat Brae

101 George Street, Dumfries, DG1 1EA

The Dr Gavin Wallace Fellowship was established to honour a Creative Scotland colleague who committed his entire professional life to helping writers and literature organisations in Scotland. It is kindly funded by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland.

Why Moat Brae?

The acclaimed Scottish author and playwright J.M. Barrie was a regular visitor to Moat Brae and its sprawling riverside garden in the 1870s, where he played with his friends and let his imagination run wild. He fondly remembered the role Dumfries played in his early literary development citing the games he played in the garden at Moat Brae, which he described as 'enchanted land' as the inspiration for Peter Pan.

After a 10-year restoration project costing £8.5m, Moat Brae opened in June 2019 as the National Centre for Children's Literature & Storytelling, offering both an international visitor attraction and a resource centre for aspiring writers and young readers. This year, Creative Scotland wanted to recognise the importance of children's authors to Scotland's literature sector and the contribution Scotland makes on the world stage. For the first time in the history of the Gavin Wallace Fellowship, it is giving preference to authors who write work for younger readers.

2020 is a big year for Moat Brae and we are establishing our first annual programme of literary events and creative learning. The 2020 programme will have an overarching theme of "Imaginary Worlds" providing common inspiration for its revolving exhibitions, creative arts programme, and learning and engagement programme.

Residency Brief

Over the years, Moat Brae and its iconic garden have seen many changes. It began life as a beautiful private residence in 1823 before becoming a private nursing home in 1914. In the latter part of the 20th Century it fell into ruin when successive development projects failed to materialise. Moat Brae was just days from demolition when the Peter Pan Action Group intervened and established the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust in 2009 to save it.

During Barrie's Dumfries years (1873 – 1877) the garden by the River Nith combined wilder areas of trees and bushes with manicured sections of immaculate landscaping.

After its abandonment, it became overgrown and wild with sections eventually sold off to private developers on each flank. Many of these changes have been documented and photographs and plans exist which allow us to imagine how the different landscapes emerged and changed as the house's purpose was re-configured over time.

Our theme this year is "Imaginary Worlds"; this could encompass sci-fi and fantasy but could also explore more earthly scenarios such as daydreaming or make-believe. This is open-ended but hopefully provides a wealth of potential ideas. We would like the writer to take inspiration from the garden and its historic transitions and ultimately respond to different landscapes in their work and practice for younger readers.

As previously noted, the work and contributions of the writer could potentially also feed into our own programme of events and activities and we would hope the writer might be willing to engage in some ambassadorial work on our behalf. This will most likely involve the fronting (or participating in) national awareness raising campaigns designed to promote reading in young people; this work will be at the writer's discretion.

Who Can Apply?

The Fellowship has been designed to support mid-career and established writers living and working in Scotland and who have published at least one novel, short story collection, one poetry pamphlet, or had one professional production of their work staged. The award is intended to provide one writer with time to develop their work over the course of a year, and the opportunity to work creatively with an organisation based in Scotland. The fellowship is aimed at allowing a writer time to create work rather than deliver creative workshops or other project-based activities.

Previous recipients need not apply.

How Does it Work?

The residency will commence on a mutually agreed date and will run for one calendar year. Moat Brae is ready to commence the residency and an immediate start is feasible.

The writer can be based at Moat Brae and will be given a private room to work in with a desk and laptop with full access. Alternatively, the writer can be based remotely and use Moat Brae as they need.

Mentoring can be offered through our Darling Circle network of children's authors and publishers if required.

The successful applicant will receive a stipend of **£20,000** to support them through their 12-month residency. This will be remunerated monthly in arrears unless otherwise agreed.

Applying

To apply, please send a covering letter outlining how you would approach the brief, what you would expect to achieve during the residency, and why you feel this opportunity would benefit your career progression. You should also include a CV that includes your previous publications. Applications close on **Friday 20th March at 5pm.**

Interviews to take place **Friday 3rd April** at Moat Brae.

Please send your application to **Jacqueline Kennedy** jacqueline@peterpanmoatbrae.org