

Report to The Barbara and Philip Denny Charitable Trust Arvon Grant Fund, September 2020



Registered charity number: 306694

Arvon is extremely grateful to the Trustees of The Barbara and Philip Denny Charitable Trust for your generous support of the Grant Fund. We value the Foundation's ongoing commitment to enabling the most diverse range of voices possible to attend our courses and providing many writers from disadvantaged backgrounds with the opportunity to develop their writing and potential.

Who has benefited from your support?

Arvon awarded grants to a limited number of writers on a low income to attend residential courses in February and March. Below are details of three individuals who benefitted from your generous support this year:

A woman from Liverpool received a £400 grant to attend the Poetry course at Lumb Bank from 3-8 February 2020. The tutors were award-winning poets Antony Dunn and Rebecca Goss. The grant recipient is self-employed, and her income is low. She told us how much she learned on the course and how it helped her find her next steps: *"Through attending the excellent classes on the course and receiving useful feedback from the tutors, I was made aware of the aspects of my poetry that could be improved and I was given the tools to do it. I also started several new poems which I plan to continue with. As a result of the course, I have decided to do a Masters in Creative Writing."*

A woman from West Sussex, received a £200 teacher grant to attend the Creative Non-Fiction course at The Hurst from the 27th January to the 1st February 2020. The tutors were prize-winning author Alexander Masters (*Stuart: A Life Backwards*) and journalist and novelist Melissa Benn. The grant recipient is a teacher who works with students with emotional and behavioural difficulties. We offer £200 grants to all teachers who want to take part in our courses. Prior to the course, the grant recipient had a book deal but was having difficulty getting started. Six months later, she has written over half of her first draft. She described the tutors as "excellent" and said that she now has "a much clearer direction" for her book. *"The Teachers' grant was so useful,"* she said. *"I had to miss work for a week in order to do the course, and was not paid for that, so the grant meant that I could at least break even."*

A woman from Glasgow received a £435 grant to attend the Fiction: Tutored Retreat course at The Hurst from 9th-14 March 2020. The tutors were novelists Jacob Ross (*Black Rain Falling*) and novelist Emylia Hall (*The Book of Summers*). The grant recipient's only income is her pension, which is fairly low. She felt attending our Tutored Fiction Retreat would be the perfect next step as she embarked on her novel. She said of the retreat, *"I was aware of my growing enthusiasm. This was as much due to the evening conversations with other attendees as to the one-to-one sessions with the Tutors."* She describes the Grant Fund as "essential for low earners such as myself".

Thank you for your ongoing support which continues to make a substantial contribution to the Grant Fund.