

Grant Fund Update, February 2020 The Barbara and Philip Denny Charitable Trust



Feedback from Grant Fund Alumni



We recognise that writers in the greatest need are unable to make a contribution to attend an Arvon course and need a fully subsidised place. Thanks to our generous supporters, Arvon have established three awards providing writers on a low-income a fully subsidised place on an Arvon course of their choosing. One of the writers to benefit last year was Julie Noble, who attended a non-fiction course in October, she explains the impact of attending an Arvon course:

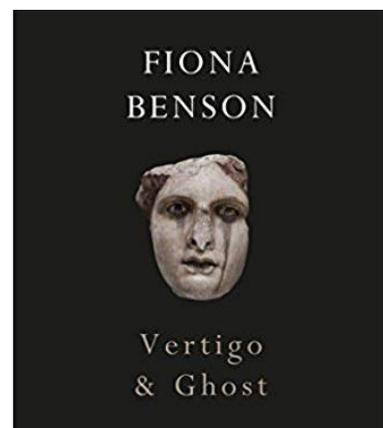
"I'm a single parent from a working-class background living on a small council estate in Northern England. Receiving the Award was a blessing in a challenging life situation. I thoroughly enjoyed the course at The Hurst, so much so that I didn't want to come home! The life-writing course was of massive benefit both on a personal basis and for my writing. The tutorials made me envisage a positive future I would never have pictured by myself; my writing feels more solid and my confidence has increased because of the tutors' support. The whole setting of Arvon is a total delight and, as a mother of five who has been cooking for my family for decades, it was a real treat to take turns with meals and washing up instead of it being wholly my responsibility. We had some good talks during kitchen duty and when it wasn't my turn, I had more time for thinking and writing! My time at Arvon was strengthening, invigorating and resilience-building. I will never forget it."

Additional support for grant recipients

We are delighted to continue our partnership with The Literary Consultancy (TLC), which each year offers up to ten grant recipients the invaluable opportunity to receive a free professional manuscript assessment as part of TLC's Free Read Scheme. This year, we had a record 24 grant recipients apply for a Free Read and we are currently assessing their applications. Many writers who have benefited from your support have received a Free Read, such as the playwright Andrew Thompson.

Recent Achievements of Grant Fund alumni

In our most recent report (December 2019) we mentioned that grant recipient Fiona Benson won the Forward Prize for Best Collection 2019, for her second volume of poems *Vertigo & Ghost*. We are delighted to report that earlier this month Fiona was shortlisted for the Rathbones Folio Prize. Fiona is the only poet on the shortlist which also features Zadie Smith and Arvon tutor Sinéad Gleeson. The winner will be announced on 23 March in a ceremony at the British Library. If Fiona wins, she will become the first female writer and the second poet to win this prestigious prize.



Thank you for your ongoing support.