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## **The search is on for the best books from the East of England**

### East Anglian Book Awards submissions open July 2020

Submissions for the coveted East Anglian Book Awards, which celebrate the outstanding literary culture of our region, open on 4 July 2020.

Now in their thirteenth year, the East Anglian Book Awards recognise the books and writers who have been shaped by, and have helped to shape, the culture of the East of England.

Since the awards began, they have highlighted the work of over 150 authors, 200 titles and more almost 100 publishers. Previous winner Sarah Perry went on to win the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and became a Waterstones Book of the Year.

The award partners are the Norwich-based National Centre for Writing, the University of East Anglia, Jarrold and the Eastern Daily Press. They are supported by the PACCAR Foundation.

Chris Gribble, Chief Executive of the National Centre for Writing, said:

'For the past twelve years, we've showcased, shared our enjoyment of and celebrated the best in books from and about our region. At a time when books have provided solace, entertainment, comfort, escape and a chance to travel imaginatively when we can't for the moment travel far physically, we're really excited to get first sight of the range and wealth of new books from East Anglia for the thirteenth East Anglian Book Awards.'

Professor Sarah Barrow, Pro Vice Chancellor of Arts and Humanities at UEA, said:

'The Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of East Anglia is pleased to support the East Anglian Book Awards in its thirteenth year. The literary culture across East Anglia is thriving and varied and continues to produce many world-class authors. We are really pleased to work with our partners once again to support this exciting competition. We wish all entrants the very best of luck.'

The Awards feature six categories: Fiction, Poetry, General Non-Fiction, History & Tradition, Biography & Memoir and The Mal Peet Children's Award. The prize for the overall Book of the year is £1000, courtesy of the PACCAR Foundation.

This year will also see the return of the 'Exceptional Contribution Award' in local publishing, as well as the 'Book by the Cover' design award, sponsored by East Anglian Writers.

Caroline Jarrold said:

'Every year the range and quality of submissions is striking. In this, Jarrold's 250th anniversary year, and having been involved with the East Anglian Book Awards from the start, I'm really looking forward to another extraordinary year of great books set in, written in and inspired by the region.'

Emma Lee, of the Eastern Daily Press, said:

'As a journalist I have had the privilege of writing about East Anglia's cultural scene for two decades and the creative talent of the people who live in the region is what helps to make it such a wonderful place to call home. Reading is one of my great pleasures in life and I'm really looking forward to being part of this year's East Anglian Book Awards.'

For the purposes of the Awards, East Anglia is defined as Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and the area of Fenland District Council. Works must have been physically published for the first time between 27 July 2019 - 24 July 2020 and be set largely in this area or be written by an author living in the region to qualify.

Due to Covid19, books must be submitted digitally in PDF, EPUB or MOBI format.

Full terms and conditions and entry requirements will be revealed on Saturday 4 July 2020 when submissions open. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday 31 July 2020.

For full details and frequently asked questions please visit the National Centre for Writing website <https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/east-anglian-book-awards/>

**/ENDS**

Notes to editors:

1. For comment and photos please contact Steph McKenna, Communications Manager at the National Centre for Writing on 01603 877177 or [steph@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk](mailto:steph@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk)
2. About National Centre for Writing

The **National Centre for Writing** (NCW) is a place of discovery, exchange, ideas and learning for writers, literary translators and readers. Based in the restored and extended 15<sup>th</sup>-century Dragon Hall in the heart of Norwich England's first UNESCO City of Literature, it explores how writing can inspire and change the world we live in. Its year-round programme of events, festivals and courses reaches over 14,000 people a year with an additional 110,000 engaged online. Through its learning and participation programme it supports 5,000 young people a year and has a commitment to working with those in the most disadvantaged areas. NCW's patrons include Margaret Atwood, JM Coetzee, Kei Miller and Elif Shafak. Its key funders are Arts Council England, Norwich City Council and University of East Anglia. [www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk](http://www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk)