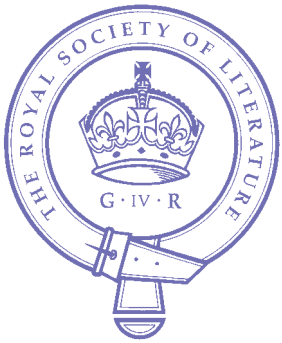
The Royal Society *of* Literature




# Become a Patron

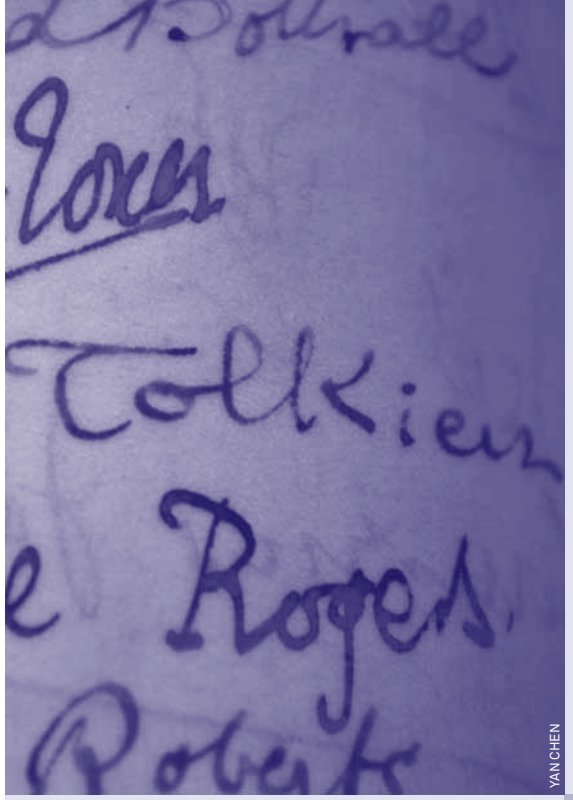
# A word from our President

If you value the beauty and expressiveness of the English language, then the RSL is your Society, uniquely devoted to promoting and extending the knowledge and love of literature. But our work can never be taken for granted: we receive no public funding, and our subscription income goes only a small way to covering the costs of the programme of events we offer our Fellows and Members. We rely on the generosity of donors to help fund all that we do.

Our Patron scheme brings together people who want to help secure the future of the RSL, and to enable it to grow by developing our work in schools, building up the number of masterclasses we offer to writers, and extending our programme of talks, discussions and readings.

As a gesture of thanks, we offer our Patrons a series of special invitations and opportunities throughout the year. We hope they will also get great satisfaction from knowing that they are bringing real benefit through an organisation whose work has never been more important.

**Colin Thubron**
President




YAN CHEN

J.R.R. Tolkien's signature in the RSL Roll Book

"Britain's literature, both past and present, is unrivalled, and the Royal Society of Literature is the only organisation devoted to ensuring that it remains so"
**Michael Holroyd, President Emeritus**

"The RSL offers the best, and best-value, programme of literary talks and discussions in London – a unique blend of literary seriousness and lively comment"
**Maggie Gee, former Chair**

NICK CUNARD

Polly Toynbee and Aminatta Forna at "What's the Use of Literature?", June 2011

# RSL Patrons

**The RSL does not receive any government funding so we rely heavily on sponsorship, donations and subscriptions. Current RSL Patrons include Sir Tom Stoppard and J.K. Rowling.**

"Two years ago I suggested that the RSL should help to meet its urgent need for an injection of funds by inviting a number of Fellows each to promise a gift of £1,000 a year for three years. I congratulate everyone concerned at the Society on their success in using this first tranche of money so effectively and imaginatively, increasing significantly the influence of the RSL, its membership and the scope of what it is now able to do in the service of literature and language. I very much hope that the Society will be able to continue the Patrons scheme, broadening its scope to include RSL Members. I feel confident that the Members will be as generous in their response as the Fellows."
**P.D James**

Patrons receive a number of exclusive invitations throughout the year.

LUCINDA DOUGLAS-MENZIES

Jeremy Treglown, Sara Wheeler, Michael Holroyd and Hilary Spurling ahead of an RSL discussion on biography

"People need to feel in their very bones that the whole of English literature from Beowulf to Byron to Benjamin Zephaniah is theirs by right of inheritance. The RSL exists to show people what belongs to them and to welcome them into it"
**Philip Pullman, CBE**

"At the heart of the RSL are its Fellows, and as Chair my aim is to link them, our best writers, with readers so that their remarkable talents are shared as widely as possible"
**Anne Chisholm, Chair**

JOCELYN LOW

Seamus Heaney at an RSL celebration of his work.

# What your support will achieve

## Enhancing our programme of lectures, debates and discussions

"In recent years the RSL has placed itself at the centre of debate on literary culture. Its events have become noted for bringing readers and writers together in lively engagement."
**Hilary Mantel, CBE**

## Increasing our masterclasses

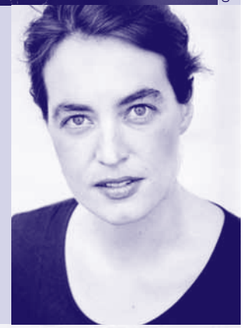
"Ali Smith's recent masterclass in Brighton opened my eyes to the endless possibilities that seemingly simple tasks could bring to my writing, and helped me overcome my reluctance to share my work. Having a world class author comment on my work was fantastic."
**Priya Khanchandani**

## Developing our work in schools

"Children should not only read great writers, but meet them in the flesh. The RSL's new Schools Membership, which will make this possible, is a thrilling initiative."
**Michael Morpurgo, OBE**

## Our awards and prizes

CHARLIE HOPKINSON



From top: Alice Albinia, Kate Clanchy and Edmund de Waal

From top: Hilary Mantel, Priya Khanchandani and Michael Morpurgo

RICHARD CANNON

HANNAH JAMES

## Additional grants and prizes for writers

"Receiving this award was a wonderful, unforeseen boon... It is an unusual prize, awarded as it is before a book is done. So it buys a writer time – and gives them a sweet serendipitous cup of adrenalin and morale."
**Alice Albinia, winner of an RSL Jerwood Award**

"There are many wonderful things about the V. S. Pritchett Prize: it is very prestigious, it is very literary, it celebrates the longer short story. The most wonderful thing for me, though, was that it was open to all comers, with no entrance criteria. That meant that someone with no reputation in short fiction could find herself sharing a platform with Helen Simpson and Penelope Lively."
**Kate Clanchy, winner of the RSL V.S. Pritchett Memorial Prize for short-story writing**

"I am truly honoured to have received this prize. There are very few prizes given by writers to writers and this makes the RSL Ondaatje Prize particularly special. My book is haunted by the meaning of place and the experience of exile and I feel that the award is a public recognition of the complexity that place can engender."
**Edmund de Waal, winner of the RSL Ondaatje Prize**

**The Royal Society *of* Literature**

If you would like to become a Patron of the RSL we would be grateful if you could fill in this form and send it back to us. Payment can be made by enclosing a cheque for a minimum of £500 made out to The Royal Society of Literature, or by filling in the Direct Debit form overleaf.

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Please call 0207 845 4677 or email Maggie@rslit.org for further information.

The Royal Society of Literature

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