



## **PRESS RELEASE: Winners of The Portico Sadie Massey Awards for Young Readers and Writers 2017**

We are delighted to announce the winners of this year's Portico Sadie Massey Awards for Young Readers and Writers. The competitions are organised by Manchester's Portico Library, which is now looking forward to the launch of its third year of competitions in September. A panel of expert judges cast their final decisions in the Spring.

Schools from the Greater Manchester area were asked to enter their pupils aged between 7 – 18 in either a Book Review Competition or, for secondary pupils only, a Creative Short Story. The Awards aim to complement the work done by teachers in schools across the region and to celebrate a love of reading and writing that will continue to grow throughout a young person's life.

### **Winners of the Readers Award:**

Primary School:

Macey Wareing (Oak Tree Primary School)

Luke Dale (Oak Tree Primary School)

Special Commendation:

Zachary Grimshaw (Oak Tree Primary School)

### **Secondary School:**

Dominic Shaw (St. Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School)

Emma Graham (King's School, Macclesfield)

Aya Ahmad (Cedar Mount Academy)

Shaun Bond (Reddish Vale High School)

Ella Williams-Wallace (Standish Community School)

Megan Moore (Wilmslow High School)

Special Commendations:

Jessica Molyneux (Urmston Grammar School)

## Winners of the Writers Award:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Emily Graham (Bolton School for Girls)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Oliver Smith (Wilmslow High School)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Mariam Littler (Kings School, Chester)

Special Commendation -

Theo Hudson (Reddish Vale High School)

Nicholas Vinarcik (Wright Robinson College)

## JUDGES' PANEL

Paul Morris: Author of several children's historical fiction books, including the hugely successful *Time Traveller Danny* and *The Codebreaker*. Paul is also an experienced public speaker & educator, and delivers creative reading & writing workshops for schools.

[Follow Paul on Twitter](#)

Fiona Hadfield: Waterstones Senior Children's Bookseller and self-confessed bookworm, Fiona Hadfield is a seasoned BookTuber with a passion for children's and YA fiction with she her finger on the pulse of the children's literature market.

[Check out Fiona's Vlog on YouTube](#)

Melvin Burgess: Winner of the 1996 Carnegie Medal and The Guardian Children's Book Prize for his book, *Junk*. Melvin's works span over three decades, having written extensively for radio and television as well as children's fiction.

[Visit's Melvin's website](#)

Martin Griffin: Manchester-based YA author and educator. Martin's debut novel *The Poison Boy* (written as Fletcher Moss) received acclaim from The Times, and his second novel *Lifers* was released in April 2016.

[Visit Martin's website](#)

The Awards are sponsored as a fitting tribute to Sadie Massey who was truly concerned with giving opportunities to young people from all backgrounds by encouraging a lifelong connection with books.

The Portico Library is a listed building on Mosley Street in central Manchester which houses a mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century book collection that is populated with surprising and fascinating volumes. It is hoped that the award will encourage students' exploration of Manchester's history, The Portico's building and the precious books that it contains.

At an Awards' Evening held on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2017 at The Portico Library, following a performance by Manchester Poet, [Tony Walsh](#), the winners will meet the judges and be awarded with certificates, book tokens and school visits by well-known writers of books for children and young adults. The chosen reviews and the winning story will also feature in the 13<sup>th</sup> volume of the 'Time Traveller' series published by [Seven Arches Publishing](#), in a special edition. *Time Travellers and the Crystal Dome* features four specifically commissioned stories inspired by The Portico Library and Victorian Manchester.

The Portico Library will continue their work on these Awards through supported school workshops, as well as inspiring group visits to the library itself. Many positive connections have been established with teachers and librarians who recognise and encourage reading and writing as crucial to the emotional and intellectual well-being of our young people. The Portico Library hopes these connections will continue to grow as work with schools continues and expands.

For further information on the competitions, workshops or the library please contact Aoife Larkin at [events@theportico.org.uk](mailto:events@theportico.org.uk) or 0161 236 6785.

Website: <http://www.theportico.org.uk/the-portico-prizes/young-readers-writers>

Facebook: The Portico Sadie Massey Awards for Young Readers and Writers

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