

Press release 8/7/24

Celebrating island identities - Call out for new writing

Orkney Arts, Museums and Heritage launch the Orkney 2025 Island Games 'write and response' project.

'This exciting project invites individuals from all participating islands to write something about the special communities where they belong. The project seeks to understand a bit more deeply where this sense of belonging comes from, what it means to individuals, how it nurtures and sometimes how it divides.'

'I've chosen prompts from three Orkney writers to start participants on their writing journeys: George Mackay Brown, Issy Grieve and Harry Josephine Giles. I wanted to showcase the breadth of creative responses that Orkney inspires and look forward to seeing how these are taken up and moved forward in different ways.'

'It feels absolutely right for Solisquoy Printmakers to be involved in providing images and illustrations for the project which will result in a beautiful, unique booklet for all Orkney 2025 Island Games competitors.'

'You don't need to be a published author, or even consider yourself a writer, everyone is welcome to contribute.'

Art and sport encourage enjoyment and personal endeavour. Both are fantastic spaces to try something new, to be a beginner and see how something grows and develops, and to spend time in the company of others.

This sense of connecting and responding to communities is at the heart of this OIC Arts, Museums and Heritage project. The submissions portal goes live on July 12th marking one year until the start of the island games. The deadline isn't until May 26th 2025, so there is plenty of time to grow ideas.

Submissions are welcomed in a variety of prose styles including memoir, nature writing, descriptions of place, season and celebrations, personal reflections and historical narratives. Further submission details and writing prompts are available on-line: <https://www.orkneymuseums.co.uk/island-games-arts-project/>

The project is funded by OIC who appointed Gabrielle Barnby earlier in the year to be Island Games Scrivener/Story Gatherer. Closer to the games there will be a chance for fun and games across Orkney writing haiku for visitors and competitors to enjoy while they change or use the facilities.

Gabrielle has years of experience in community arts engagement and events. She has been successfully funded by Creative Scotland and has worked with individuals living with dementia, long term mental and physical health conditions as well as young people. More information about her creative work can be found at: gabriellebarnby.com