

Background

The Scottish Storytelling Forum (SSF) was founded in 1992 to encourage and support the telling and sharing of stories amongst all age groups and all sectors of society, particularly those who, for reasons of poverty or disability, are sometimes excluded from artistic experiences.

In April 2023, the SSF moved to SCIO status officially winding up Scottish Storytelling Forum SC020891 with all assets and funds being transferred to the new Scottish Storytelling Forum SCIO (SC052330).

The Scottish Storytelling Forum operates as part of a wider network coordinated by TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland), which provides strategic oversight and support. The Forum operates within the TRACS network, aligning with its objectives and working within its infrastructure and guidance.

The Scottish Storytelling Forum (SSF) is a diverse network of storytellers, organisations and individuals supporting Scotland's vibrant storytelling community. It is a charity and a membership organisation that operates nationwide with links to storytelling communities across the world.

SSF supports a storytelling apprentice scheme, maintains a directory of professional storytellers, establishes storytelling outreach projects in communities and schools and offers support and development opportunities for storytellers.

The Storytelling Apprenticeship Programme – background and future plans

Storytelling in Scotland is expanding and changing. Many of the elders who shaped the Scottish Storytelling Forum (SSF) are no longer active, although their legacy lives on in others. New tellers are interested in exploring a range of ways of using story – be it performative, applied or community based, online or in person. It is an exciting time for storytelling.

Storytelling must also take account of wider society today. Changing attitudes impact how and what stories are told; a growing awareness of excluded groups require us to look at how we can increase diversity in storytelling; legislation requires tellers to know about duty of care, PVG, risk assessment, etc.; financial constraints on the arts may have an impact on the development of storytelling. There is much for storytellers to think about, and a wide range of skills are required.

At the same time we wish to make sure that prospective storytellers also understand where the traditions come from, what we are safeguarding, and the importance of passing it on. "The carrying stream" (Hamish Henderson). This aligns with TRACS' duty as a UNESCO-accredited NGO for Intangible Cultural Heritage, working to promote and safeguard traditional creative practices.

Building on the success of the Storytelling Apprenticeship we recognise this as a good time to formalise processes and build a sustainable model for the future.

Job Description

The Scottish Storytelling Forum are looking to appoint an individual with passion and enthusiasm for Storytelling in Scotland who has excellent administrative and co-ordination skills.

Duties to include but not limited to:

- Answering enquiries and meeting with new and prospective apprentices
- Co-ordination of Apprentice Days and events
- Maintenance of Apprentice Database
- Admin and Moderation of 'Stories on the Way' Facebook group
- Attendance at SSF Board Meetings when presenting apprentices for addition to Directory
- Development of Apprentice Programme – in collaboration with Development Officer and SSF Board
- Reporting

Person Specification

Knowledge and Experience

- High level of awareness of storytelling scene in Scotland
- Awareness of the broader Trad Arts scene
- Awareness of learning practices and the development of accreditation would be desirable but not essential.

Skills & Competencies

- High level of competency in administration with experience of using Microsoft excel, Office, Google workspace, Social Media platforms, JoinIt, Constant Contact.
- Ability to maintain appropriate records pertaining to the apprenticeship utilising management of information systems to provide reports and updates as required
- Understanding and awareness of safeguarding and protection of vulnerable groups and willingness to undertake training where necessary
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to manage own time and resources to achieve deadlines

Personal Qualities

- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills
- Self-motivated while maintaining collaborative approach to working
- Ability to inspire and enthuse others



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