

Re-Story: The Andy Hunter Storytelling Bursary

Background

Before his untimely death in 2015 Andy Hunter was a storyteller of sensitivity and skill, a cycling guide, and an advocate for our natural environment.

Andy combined his love of storytelling with his love of cycling to create 'Storybikes', a business that aimed to enable people to travel to places in a sustainable way, hear stories along the way and thereby have an impact on the participants and on the place. He strongly believed that by learning more about a place we could enhance our perception of it, and likewise that places are changed by our being in them.

Travelling in a sustainable way - predominantly by bike, but also on foot or by train - enabled Andy to take time to see the world around him, to explore, and to forage. He would often return from a trip with something he hadn't set out with: acorns to roast, grind and make acorn coffee with; Himalayan balsam to make syrup; elderflowers or berries to make wine; or pieces of wood to make a fire or carve a spoon. Andy used to complement his storytelling with artefacts and lived knowledge of places and seasons.

This way of working allowed him to enrich his own and others' experience and understanding, to go deeply into the landscape and to pay attention to detail, whether it be in a story or in a place.

Andy often quoted a stanza from the poem 'A Southern Night' by Matthew Arnold who lamented the increased pace of life in the words:

*"And see all sights from pole to pole,
And glance, and nod, and bustle by,
And never once possess our soul
Before we die."*

TRACS: Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland

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By contrast, Andy's philosophy was to take time for people, for places and for the many causes in which he believed. He saw that storytelling gave people a chance to be still, the opportunity to look, to listen and to discover the heart and history of a place, and their own humanity.

Aim of the bursary: Re-Story

The aim of the bursary is to facilitate a continuation and development of Andy Hunter's passion for the earth, the people in it and live oral storytelling, giving other storytellers the resources to progress their own storytelling journey.

The bursary is rooted in the ethos of traditional storytelling, seen as a culture of gifting and sharing, and as a creative practice where meanings are co-created by tellers and listeners: an artform that connects people on an equal basis and beyond boundaries.

The idea of Re-Storying people's lives means exploring how traditional storytelling can help individuals and communities find a new meaning in their lives, enabling resilience, sustainability and wellbeing. Such exploration may link to the following themes:

- The natural environment and re-naturing
- Food and communal sharing of food
- Family identities, personally and across generations
- Languages and cultural traditions
- Creative practices of making and performance

Projects

Storytellers are invited to propose a project, not necessarily performance led, that expresses some aspects of Andy's legacy. Such projects would contribute to the Scottish International Storytelling Festival Go Local programme in 2025 and/or 2026.

They may include:

- a performance (i.e. a story walk or a storytelling event in a local venue)
- a community event
- a workshop (i.e. learning how to combine traditional crafts and storytelling)

8 bursaries to the value of £2,500 each will be awarded.

Submitting your Proposal

Eligibility

Creative practitioners of 18 years of age or over, who are living and working in Scotland and are rooted in the traditional artform of live, oral storytelling.

Collaboration with other artforms and/or international artists is also welcomed.

How to apply

- Eligible artists (see above) are invited to make **one** submission only for the Andy Hunter Storytelling Bursary
- Please complete and return the Google form by **Monday 21st April:**

[The Andy Hunter Storytelling Bursary](#)

- You will receive an acknowledgement email from the Festival team as soon as possible, confirming receipt of your proposal
- All applicants will receive a final decision on their proposal by **Friday 30th May**

Access

We will provide any required support to make this process as accessible as possible. Please address any access requirements to storytellingfestival@tracscotland.org.

Enquiries

Any general enquiries should be addressed to storytellingfestival@tracscotland.org in the first instance.