

Arvon update for The Barbara and Philip Denny Charitable Trust, March 2022

Grant recipient feedback 2021:

"I came away with so many new ideas and just as many new approaches for my own poetry which I have been steadily incorporating since returning home. Leaving was bittersweet, but I know Lumb Bank will continue to stay with me through all I've learned... I feel so fortunate to have received such invaluable encouragement from my tutors and peers who (as I suppose is the way with writers) seemed to know all the right words and made me believe in my own writing." – Freya Bantiff was awarded a grant to attend a poetry course at Lumb Bank in November 2021. Freya has written a blog about her Arvon experience [here](#).

Recent achievements of Grant Fund alumni:

- **Hannah Lowe** won the prestigious Costa Book of the Year Award for her poetry collection, *The Kids*. **Monique Roffey** won the Award last year for her novel *The Mermaid of Black Conch: A Love Story*, meaning that for the second year running an Arvon grant recipient has won this coveted literary prize.
- **Ishy Din** has co-written *Silence*, a new play adapted from the testimonies and stories of people who lived through partition from Kavita Puri's book *Partition Voices: Untold British Stories*. *Silence* will premiere at London's Donmar Warehouse in September 2022.
- **Julie Mayhew's** novel *Little Nothings* will be published by Bloomsbury in May 2022.

Arvon appoints Patricia Cumper as Chair

I am delighted to let you know that Arvon has appointed Patricia Cumper MBE FRSL as our new Chair. Pat is a writer, producer, director, and cultural commentator. She has extensive Trustee experience, having formerly served on the Board of the British Museum. She was the Artistic Director and CEO of Talawa Theatre Company from 2006-12, and received an MBE in 2013 for her services to Black British Theatre. We are thrilled that Pat has joined Arvon, and you can read full details of her appointment [here](#).

Pat Cumper said: *'The stories we tell and the skill with which we tell them grow ever more important in today's world. I've known about and admired Arvon and the work it does with writers at all stages of their careers and across genres for decades. Today Arvon's work is more valuable than ever, whether it is offering opportunities for initial creative expression or supporting professional writers to hone and polish their work. To chair their board is an honour, and I am very aware of the responsibility it entails. I am delighted to support the work of a wonderful, dedicated team not only to continue to deliver their established courses and residencies but also in broadening Arvon's offer both online and with the redevelopment of Lumb Bank.'*

Thank You

We are deeply grateful to the Trustees of The Barbara and Philip Denny Charitable Trust for your unstinting support of writers on low incomes through our Grant Fund. On behalf of everyone at Arvon, thank you.

If you have any questions about Arvon and our Grant Fund, please contact Dean Stigwood, Head of Development, at dean.stigwood@arvon.org