



## Judges Announced for 2013 Costa Book Awards

*Category Shortlists announced: Wednesday 27th November 2013*

*Category Winners announced: Tuesday 7th January 2014*

*Costa Book of the Year: Tuesday 28th January 2014*

**London, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013:** Costa Coffee today announces the judging panels for the 2013 Costa Book Awards, which is open to writers based in the UK and Ireland.

They include broadcaster and journalist Paul Ross; broadcaster and author Clemency Burton-Hill; poet and journalist Olivia Cole; author and former Channel 4 News culture editor, Matthew Cain, author, columnist and scriptwriter Emma Kennedy and writer and poet, John Burnside.

The full panels are listed below:

### **COSTA FIRST NOVEL AWARD**

Rachael Beale: *Web Manager, London Review of Books*

Fanny Blake: *Novelist, Journalist and Books Editor of Woman & Home*

Matthew Cain: *Writer and Broadcaster*

### **COSTA NOVEL AWARD**

Clemency Burton-Hill: *Broadcaster and Author*

Eithne Farry: *Reviewer, Critic and Author; Books Editor, Marie Claire*

Gerard Woodward: *Author and Professor of Fiction at Bath Spa University*

### **COSTA BIOGRAPHY AWARD**

Anne de Courcy: *Author*

Paul Ross: *Broadcaster and Journalist*

Caroline Sanderson: *Author, Reviewer and Non-Fiction Editor of The Bookseller*

### **COSTA POETRY AWARD**

John Burnside: *Writer*

Olivia Cole: *Poet and Journalist*

Daniel Eltringham: *Poetry Buyer, Dulwich Books*

### **COSTA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD**

Jo Anne Cocadiz: *Children's Book Buyer, Foyles*

Emma Kennedy: *Author, Columnist and Scriptwriter*

Philip Womack: *Author and Critic*

A total of 617 books were entered for this year's Costa Book Awards - the highest number of entries ever received in one year. This year also saw the highest-ever number of entries to the Children's Book Award - a total of 151 books were submitted in this category, and 163 in the Novel category.

**Children's Book Award category judge, Emma Kennedy**, said: "I'm happy to be able to declare, having read a vast pile of books, that children's writing is as vibrant and exciting as ever. I wanted imaginations run riot, to be transported to peculiar worlds but most of all, I wanted a damn good read. I got it."

Emma's fellow Children's Book Award judge, **Philip Womack**, added: "I've greatly enjoyed reading the submissions for this year's Children's Book Award, and have been overwhelmed by the quality and diversity. It has been fascinating, frustrating and fun in equal measure."

The judges will select shortlists and winners in their respective categories (First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book) and the five Award Winners will form the shortlist for the 2013 Costa Book of the Year, which will be announced at an awards ceremony in central London on Tuesday January 28th, 2014.

"It's not only an honour but a thrill to be among the judges of this year's Costa Book Awards," **commented Novel category judge, Clemency Burton-Hill**. "Amid persistent doom-mongering about the future of the publishing industry, it's exciting to see that the contemporary novel is not only alive and well but in rude and vital health. In terms of form, genre and subject matter, the range and ambition of the novels the judges are reading is spectacular, and I predict some tough conversations ahead as we battle it out to reach a shortlist and an eventual winner."

The Costa Book Awards have the single aim of celebrating the most enjoyable books of the last year by writers based in the UK and Ireland. Originally established in 1971 by Whitbread Plc, Costa, the UK's fastest-growing coffee shop chain, announced its takeover of the sponsorship of the UK's most prestigious book prize in 2006.

Recent winners of the Costa Book of the Year include Hilary Mantel for *Bring Up the Bodies* (2012), Andrew Miller for *Pure* (2011), Jo Shapcott for *Of Mutability* (2010), Christopher Reid for *A Scattering* (2009), Sebastian Barry for *The Secret Scripture* (2008), *Day* by A. L. Kennedy (2007) and Stef Penney for *The Tenderness of Wolves* (2006).

In 2012, Costa launched the Costa Short Story Award, a new Award for a single short story run in association with the Costa Book Awards but judged independently of the main five-category system. The Award is for a single, previously unpublished short story of up to 4,000 words by an author aged 18 years or over and written in English.

A panel of five judges will select a shortlist of six entries which will be revealed in November 2013. The public will then be invited to vote online for their favourite story from the six finalists. The two runners-up and winner will be announced at the Costa Book Awards ceremony on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

- Ends -

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**For further press information, please contact:**

**Amanda Johnson**

Costa Book Awards Press and Publicity

Telephone: 07715 922180 (mobile)  
Email: [amanda@amandajohnsonpr.com](mailto:amanda@amandajohnsonpr.com)

**The Costa Book Awards:**

- The Costa Book Awards, formerly the Whitbread Book Awards, were established in 1971 to encourage, promote and celebrate the best contemporary British writing.
- The Costa Book Awards have the single aim of celebrating the most enjoyable books of the last year by writers based in the UK and Ireland and have five categories: Novel, First Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book.

**About Costa:**

**The UK's favourite coffee shop\***

Costa is the UK's favourite coffee shop, having been awarded "Best Branded Coffee Shop Chain in the UK and Ireland" by Allegra Strategies for three years running (2010, 2011 & November 2012).

Winner of "Best Branded Coffee Chain in Europe" Allegra Strategies 2011 and 2012.

With over 1,600 coffee shops in the UK and more than 1,000 overseas, Costa is the fastest growing coffee shop business in the UK and the second largest coffee shop operator in the world. Founded in London by Italian brothers Sergio and Bruno Costa in 1971, Costa has become the UK's favourite coffee shop chain and has recently diversified into both the at-home and gourmet self-serve markets.

Just 1% of the world's production of coffee is good enough for us to choose from. Only the very best 100% RFA certified coffee available can go into creating the unique taste and aroma of our Mocha Italia blend.

Costa is committed to looking after coffee-growers. That's why we've established The Costa Foundation, a registered charity. The Costa Foundation's aims are to relieve poverty, advance education and the health and environment of coffee-growing communities around the world. So far, The Costa Foundation has funded the building of 42 schools and improved the social and economic welfare of coffee-growing communities.