

## 2019 University of the Highland and Islands Prize Winners

This year's winners of the annual prizes awarded by the Highland Society of London are Neil Conway and Amanda Dailly (pictured receiving her award from Crichton Lang, Principal and Vice-Chancellor at the University of the Highlands and Islands at her recent graduation).



Amanda Dailly is the 2019 winner of the Highland Society of London award for the best dissertation on a subject related to the Highlands and Islands, with her work entitled “The Meaning of Querns: A study of Quern Deposition in the Iron Age at Windwick Bay, Orkney”.

Her dissertation charts the distribution of apparently deliberately placed millstones (querns) around the site and offers new interpretations of the societal significance of querns as good to think with as well as to grind and process grain with.

Through addressing the questions “does the treatment and deposition of the querns constitute meaningful practise” and “what can we infer about the social and symbolic significance of querns” she argues that the productive capacity of the community is seen as a symbolically rich cultural resource, as much as the food stuff itself is literal sustenance.

Neil Conway is the final recipient of the Highland Society of London creative writing award, for a portfolio of poems that achieved a distinction score of 85%. Going forward, the Society will only present an annual dissertation award through the University of the Highlands and Islands, with the focus on creative writing being concentrated on the Highland Book Prize. Copies of both 2019 prize-winning works are available from the Society.