



41st SCOTTISH
PRESS
AWARDS

WINNERS



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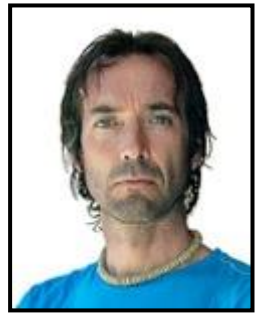
- Individual advice, supporting journalists to access benefits, government assistance packages, and other funds.
- Helping journalists access immediate emergency support.
Approved over £30,000 in financial assistance to journalists in the last two weeks alone.
- Organising online meet-ups to help journalists get information and stay connected.

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Sports Photographer of the Year

Ian MacNicol, Getty Images



Judges comments

In an age where people snap photos on their smart phones every day, it is so exciting still to see the power of the perfect photo which has captured the emotion and the excitement of the moment. Ian McNicol's photos captured those moments the spectators don't see. He gets so close to the action that we can see the huge effort being put in by athletes, capturing our attention and making us want to find out more"

Bio

Ian MacNicol is a full time professional multi-award-winning photographer based in Glasgow. Specialising in sports photography both home and abroad he has been fortunate enough to cover Summer & Winter Olympic Games, Paralympics, Commonwealth Games, World & European Athletics Championships, World Swimming Championships, Wimbledon, French Open tennis, as well as football World Cups, European football championships, Champions League finals and English Premier League football. Ian has won this award on four previous occasions.

News Photographer of the Year

Jeff Mitchell, Getty Images



Judges comments

Despite tough competition, Jeff Mitchell stood out at the winner with his impactful photographs. His pictures are consistently brilliant across a range of subjects. The judges loved how he captured the expression and atmosphere in his photos perfectly.

Bio

Jeff Mitchell has been a news agency photographer for over 20 years, during this period his picture-taking skills and versatility have won him multiple awards. Prior to moving to work with the agencies, he had stints on The Herald, Edinburgh Evening News, and local newspapers in Dumbarton and Helensburgh. He lives with his wife Lyn and two sons Finlay 15 and Callum 12 in Alexandria.

Arts/Entertainment Journalist of the Year

Barry Didcock, The Herald/Herald on Sunday



Judges comments

In a tightly contested field, this runaway winner still leads the pack. Barry Didcock is a hard-working and fearless industry stalwart who takes on the villains and gives a voice to the victims. An outstanding portfolio with a hat-trick of hard-hitting exclusives. Meticulous reporting gets behind the headlines for a riveting read every time.

Bio

Barry Didcock started his career on The Scotsman in 1993, later becoming a feature writer and the paper's music editor. In 1999 he joined the start-up team of The Sunday Herald, initially as commissioning editor on the magazine and later as arts editor and finally as features editor. Currently a senior feature writer on The Herald he has also written for Scotland On Sunday, The List, The Skinny, The Times and Nutmeg, a Scottish football periodical.

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Young Journalist of the Year

Winner - Georgia Edkins, Scottish Mail on Sunday



Judges comments

Regular splash by-lines in your mid twenties gets you noticed. Georgia Edkins is clearly trusted by her editors to help deliver big stories and she does so on a regular basis for the Mail on Sunday.

Bio

Georgia Edkins is a news and politics reporter for the Scottish Mail on Sunday. Prior to that she was a reporter at the Daily Mail in London. In the last year she has worked on a number of agenda-setting stories. She has laid bare a Parliamentary sex scandal and her 'Locked up for being Autistic' campaign has resulted in one man being freed from a secure hospital.

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Interviewer of the Year

Emma Cowing, Scottish Daily Mail



Judges comments

Emma Cowing stood out in terms of interviewees and diverse subject matter and her ability to engage from the opening par. The author shows an outstanding ability to tell stories which have a wider significance alongside the personal, and often emotive, experiences of the interviewee.

Bio

Emma Cowing is the Features Editor of the Scottish Daily Mail, where she also writes features and a weekly column. She has worked in newspapers for over 20 years. In 2014 she became the first Scot to be awarded the Ochberg Fellowship at Columbia Journalism School. In 2015 she was named Feature Writer of the Year at the Scottish Press Awards.

Political Journalist of the Year

Paul Hutcheon, Daily Record



Judges comments

The judging panel recognised the big impact which Paul Hutcheon has made in a new role at a new title. Breaking one of the leading political stories of the year in the first week of his new role, his investigative journalism led to one of the most senior politicians in local government. He has since followed this up with consistent, a must read journalism on Scottish politics.

Bio

Paul joined the Daily Record as Political Editor in October after 15 years at the Sunday Herald/Herald on Sunday. He is a long-suffering fan of Aberdeen FC and likes beer..

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Columnist of the Year

Melanie Reid, The Times



Judges comments

Melanie Reid demonstrated an outstanding ability to keep her columns fresh and stimulating. While she draws on her own personal circumstances, she succeeds time and again and to make them relevant to a wide readership.

Bio

Melanie Reid is a writer and columnist with The Times. Since 2010, when she fell from her horse and broke her neck she has written Spinal Column, an award-winning account of the realities of life with profound disability. She previously worked for the Herald, the Scotsman and the Sunday Mail. In 2014 she co-wrote, with Gregor Fisher, his memoir The Boy from Nowhere. Her memoir The World I Fell Out Of was published in 2019 and won the Saltire Prize for non-fiction

Local/Weekly Sports Writer of the Year

Paul Thomson, East Kilbride News



Judges comments

The judges were impressed with the quality and range of Paul Thomson's work. Throw some strong exclusives into the mix, add writing of a style and quality which would grace the sports pages of national titles, and you have an entry which truly set the standard for others to beat.

Bio

Paul was East Kilbride News sports editor from 2008-2019 and runner-up in the Press Awards' Local/Weekly Sports Writer category last year. In February this year, he launched Lanarkshire Live Sport, where he is now editor. Paul also covers matches in the SPFL for Daily Record and Sunday Mail.

Sports Columnist of the Year

Michael Grant, The Times



Judges comments

Michael Grant has the ability to make you read about (and enjoy) sports subjects when you're not even that into sport, 'The Ricksen piece really made you stop and think about the man - not the footballer and not the disease. Undoubtedly one of the most pre-eminent sports columnists in the country'

Bio

Michael Grant has been the Scottish football correspondent of The Times since 2015. Previously he was chief football writer at The Press and Journal, Sunday Herald and The Herald. And yes, he's the one whose phone went off during a Neil Lennon press conference.

Sports Feature Writer of the Year

Gary Keown, Scottish Mail on Sunday



Judges comments

With articles that simply enthrall the reader, Gary Keown has shown a readiness to rethink and redefine sports feature writing. Covering a variety of sports, he has helped to break new ground and confronted misconceptions with his writing on mental health and the period problems of female athletes.

Bio

Gary has worked in a number of different roles on a number of national newspapers since joining the Sunday Post from school at the age of 16 in 1989. He has been with the Scottish Mail on Sunday and Scottish Daily Mail since July 2016.

Sports News Writer of the Year

Stephen McGowan, Scottish Daily Mail



Judges comments

Stephen McGowan takes sport from the back pages to the front pages. A hugely versatile writer.

Bio

Stephen McGowan joined the Scottish Daily Mail in 1999, becoming Chief Football Writer and a sports columnist in 2011. He lives in hope of covering Scotland in a major international tournament. Maybe.

Financial/Business Journalist of the Year

Greig Cameron, The Times

Judges comments

Greig Cameron was well placed by all the judges. He covered a range of issues and tackled difficult subjects in a thoughtful and clear way. The colour and detail he brought to his Stock Exchange story was superb and his exclusive coverage of Rangers and HMRC was extremely strong.

Bio

Greig Cameron started his career at the Deadline press agency in Edinburgh before moving on to the Daily Record. It was there he was offered the chance to specialise in business and became the deputy editor at Insider magazine. His next move was to join the business desk at The Herald as the deputy editor. At the start of 2016 he went to the The Times as the Scottish business editor for the title. He has been nominated several times at the Scottish Press Awards and is a former winner and runner-up in this category.



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Local/Weekly Feature Writer of the Year

Jack Haugh, The Gazette



Judges comments

Jack Haugh submitted emotional pieces which had more impact because the writing style was sparse and the chosen questions had resulted in strong quotes. Campaigners for headstones commemorating over 300 children believed to have died at a children's home, a local authority councillor speaking openly about the racism she has experienced; there was a freshness and authenticity about these features which resonated with readers.

Bio

Jack Haugh works for a number of titles across Newsquest Scotland, including The Gazette and Barrhead News.

He joined the titles as a trainee reporter in 2018 and was recently promoted to senior reporter.

He also works for the Alloa Advertiser, where he spends his weekends following Alloa Athletic across Scotland.

Feature Writer of the Year

Dani Garavelli, Scotland on Sunday/The Scotsman



Judges comments

Once again this was an extremely strong category with some very powerful and creative features from all the finalists. Dani Garavelli showed great range with her writing, moving between the highly personal to the extremely well researched with great skill.

Bio

Dani Garavelli is a journalist and columnist for Scotland on Sunday. She spent seven years working for regional newspapers including the Newcastle Journal, where she was Crime and Home Affairs correspondent. After returning north, she worked for Scotland on Sunday in several roles, including chief reporter, before going freelance. She now writes for a variety of publications, including The Scotsman, Scotland on Sunday, The Times, the Herald Magazine and The Big Issue.

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Podcast of the Year

Gianni Marini, Democracy on your Doorstep™



Judges comments

In a very strong category the judges were unanimous in their selection. Gianni Marini's entry grabbed by the scruff of the neck what would be traditionally regarded as a dry, dull subject and brought it to life through engaging and authoritative contributions from a wide spectrum of society. It was a compelling mix of the entertaining and educational and an exemplar of new media reportage.

Bio

Gianni is a multimedia and production journalist working for Newsquest across four weekly titles. He is also a freelance videographer and video editor, making short-form documentaries and other visual content.

Video of the Year

Craig Sinclair, Edinburgh Evening News



Judges comments

Craig Sinclair displayed exceptional production values that set it above a number of incredibly worthy contenders. What clinched it for the judging panel was how this entry focussed on a specific subject that touches the lives of almost everyone in its target audience area and told a new story at every twist and bend with passion and authority.

Bio

A visual storyteller with a passion to create unique experiences with various camera and post-production techniques.

Scoop of the Year

Thomas Brown, The Scottish Sun



Judges Comments

A senior police officer, a footballer's wife and a park and ride romp being rumbled by other cops. You really couldn't make it up. Thomas Brown landed what his bosses might term an old-fashioned Sun belter. This entry for 'scoop' of the year was when the Capital's most senior police officer was suspended and reported to prosecutors following an alleged public indecency after reports he was partly undressed with the wife of a former footballer in the back of his car in a park and ride car park in daylight

It was, of course, followed up by most news outlets

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Headline of the Year

Evening Telegraph – “Everybody was flung poo fighting”

SPECIAL REPORT
AS DUNDEE GRAPPLES WITH A DRUGS DEATHS CRISIS, WE ASK 'WHAT CAN PORTUGAL TEACH US?'
SEE PAGES 4&5

Late Extra Dundee Born and Read
Evening Telegraph
Friday, July 19, 2019 No. 43,590 70p

EVERYBODY WAS FLUNG POO FIGHTING: BATTLE OVER DISCARDED DOG WASTE
Row over binning of mess turns violent — page 6

SEE PAGE 8

Tele readers say it's time for a gull cull

SEE SPORT

Strachan on his ambitions for Dee

REPRESENT YOUR COLOUR
ON SALE NOW EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE DUNDEE UNITED SUPERSTORE
PRIMARY KIT 2019/20 Dundee's United 50 YEARS OF TALENT

Judges comments

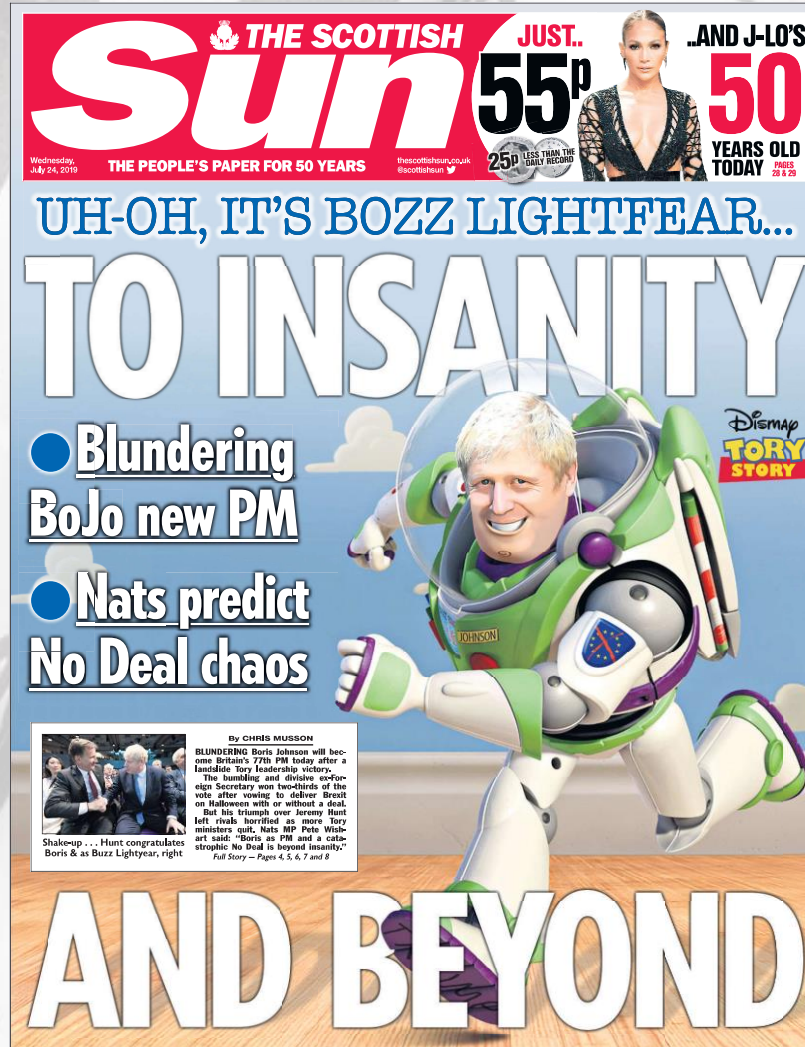
An excellent headline will bring a story to life and that's what the Evening Telegraph achieved. A headline not only to read but sing! How to best describe a row over discarded dog dirt? That was the not insignificant task facing the Evening Telegraph following news a man had lost two teeth following a heated altercation pertaining to the proper place for poo. Thankfully the prophetic words of Carl Douglas in his seminal 1974 classic “Kung Fu Fighting” came to the rescue. The resultant headline was, to say the least, well received...

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Front Page of the Year

Scottish Sun – “To Insanity & Beyond”



Judges comments

An iconoclastic front page. A well crafted front page with great artwork. A classic Sun front page that puts a smile on your face.

Journalism Team of the Year

***Winner* - Scottish Mail on Sunday –“Queen Elizabeth Hospital”**



Judges comments

A team that never missed an angle, relentlessly pursued the story and hit its targets. The Mail on Sunday's Queen Elizabeth University Hospital scandal was a memorable team effort on a public interest story.

Description

A string of exclusives by the Mail on Sunday's reporting team set the news agenda on the water contamination crisis at the flagship Queen Elizabeth superhospital in Glasgow. Our revelations of a series of child deaths, a police investigation and a string of health failings at the hospital, were widely followed up by all major news organisations and led to the Scottish Government announcing a public inquiry into the scandal and to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board taking legal action against the building contractors.

Digital Team of the Year

The Courier - "Shaped by a river: Tales of the Tay"



THE COURIER

Judges comments

The Courier displayed exceptional production values that set it above a number of worthy contenders. What clinched it for the judging panel was how this entry centred on a specific subject that touches the lives of almost everyone in its target audience area and told a new story at every twist and bend with passion and authority.

Bio

Shaped by a River is The Courier's answer to the question: what happens when you give journalists time and space to do their very best work? By combining remarkable photos and video with in-depth, passionate writing, and cutting-edge digital publishing, we provided a glimpse of the exciting future ahead for all Courier readers — and our staff. For us, the success of the project was summed up by a letter we received from an 83-year-old lifelong reader of the title, who followed every instalment online and wrote: "This series is the best thing The Courier has ever achieved."



Local/Weekly Campaign of the Year

Lennox Herald - "Lonely this Christmas"



Judges comments

This year's entries offered clear evidence of the continued strength and quality of our local newspapers. The Lennox Herald campaign impressed both with the breadth of its coverage and the interaction with the interaction with the community. This was not just something that the paper covered, this was a campaign which it felt part of.

Bio

When an investigation showed that 3,400 older people across our communities were lonely, The Lennox Herald knew they had to take action and to highlight this. The six-week campaign started strong with the plight of one local man, left so isolated after his wife died he considered taking his life.

Campaign of the Year

The Sunday Post - "Oor Wullie's Big Bucket Trail"

A'BODY'S WULLIE 16-PAGE BUCKET TRAIL SOUVENIR SPECIAL



Judges Comments

Campaigning journalism is alive and well in Scotland as we could see from an outstanding group of entries.

The winner had to be something really special in view of the strength of the field and the Sunday Post's Oor Wullie's bucket Trail was really special. It was bright, colourful, attracted widespread participation and support and had a defined outcome of raising serious money for good causes. A brilliantly devised and executed campaign.

Campaign Details

Oor Wullie, a Scottish icon synonymous with the Sunday Post, hit the streets in 2019 with the country's first nationwide art trail. Hundreds of individually designed Wullies brought colour and fun to Scotland's summer before being auctioned to raise £1.3million for charities supporting our children's hospitals.

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Local/Weekly Reporter of the Year

David Goodwin, Greenock Telegraph



Judges comments

The judges were impressed with the initiative and tenacity of David Goodwin in pursuing the story of a plan to build 200 homes on toxic land sold for £1. He sought external expert opinion rather than accepting at face value safety assurances to the authorities. David Goodwin of the Greenock Telegraph seems to have made this story his own and created a significant impact. This kind of reporting enhances respect for journalists and has the potential to buoy the sales of regional newspapers.

Bio

David Goodwin of the Greenock Telegraph is a finalist this year for his investigative work into plans to build social housing on a contaminated former hospital site in the town.

Scrutiny of available information and questions posed of public and private organisations sparked widespread public and political reaction and put pressure on Inverclyde Council to halt the development.

Reporter of the Year

Norman Silvester, Sunday Mail



Judges Comments

In a tightly contested field, Norman is a runaway winner still leads the pack. A hard-working and fearless industry stalwart who takes on the villains and gives a voice to the victims. An outstanding portfolio with a hat-trick of hard-hitting exclusives. Meticulous reporting gets behind the headlines for a riveting read every time.

Bio

Norman Silvester has more than 40 years experience as a newspaper reporter on some of the country's most iconic titles. For the last 25 years he has worked for the Sunday Mail specialising in crime and investigations but also covering a wide variety of other subjects. Edinburgh-born Silvester is married with three grown-up step children and counts reading, football and movies among his interests.

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The Nicola Barry Award

Gina Davidson, The Scotsman



Judges Comments

The judges were impressed by an incredibly high standard of writing from all contenders. The depth of commitment and knowledge in what are often unfashionable subjects was really impressive. Gina Davidson's entry took on a very controversial topic (domestic abuse) and showed it in a new light and all of the judges felt she triumphed for her work in The Scotsman.

Bio

Gina Davidson has been a journalist for more than 25 years, working across newspapers and television, and after a brief sojourn in Scottish politics, she is currently back on the right side of the tracks as Deputy Political Editor of the Scotsman.

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WOMEN
IN
JOURNALISM
SCOTLAND



Local/Weekly Newspaper of the Year

Fife Free Press

**Fife
Free
Press**

Judges Comments

The Fife Free Press is a paper into which the team obviously puts a lot of thought to produce some imaginative and eye-catching front pages. From the news section through to some brilliant sports pages, it's a paper which really reflects the community it serves because it informs the readers but stands up for them too.

Bio

The Fife Free Press won the Scottish Weekly Newspaper of the Year in 2015, 2016 and 2019.

Based in Kirkcaldy it continues to speak up for Kirkcaldy, set the debate on all the key issues and challenge the decision makers. The Press also works with a host of organisations to help promote the town.

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Lifetime Achievement Award

Ian McCormack



Educated at Kilmarnock Academy, and on leaving school, Ian was accepted onto a journalism training course run by George Outram (publishers of the Glasgow Herald and Evening Times). After a six-month trial period Ian was seconded to the Kilmarnock Standard for two years, at the end of which he returned to the Glasgow Herald as a reporter. After a further two years with the Herald Ian left to study English and drama at Glasgow University, but after meeting his future wife and having two daughters, academic life took a back seat. After brief spells of unemployment and working as a civil servant in the social security department in Maryhill, Ian went to Skye to visit friends and inquired about the possibility of a journalist job at the WHFP. A few weeks later Ian received what he describes as “an unexpected call from the Free Press asking if I could start straight away”, Ian did and joined the paper in September 1975 as a reporter under then caretaker-editor Calum Neish (a local freelance), and was appointed editor in March 1976 with Jim Innes as reporter. The rest, some 44 years later, is considerable history!

Journalist of the Year

Norman Silvester, Sunday Mail



Judges comments

Norman Silvester has been a Scottish newspaper stalwart for more than four decades, primarily working on crime and investigations. He is respected by both colleagues and rivals and most would agree that his friendly demeanour masks a relentless and methodical approach which typifies so many of our Sunday journalists in their pursuit of the big story.

Norman's shocking CCTV picture-driven tale in the Sunday Mail about the Saughton Prison death of Allan Marshall had an impact that reverberated throughout the corridors of power and justice - as well as newsrooms - with political ramifications that are still rumbling on.

It is not unfair to say that if Scottish government ministers had had their way, the article might never have appeared at all. Norman may now have left Central Quay - just a few weeks ago - but what a remarkable way to bow out after 25 years at the Mail.

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Newspaper of the Year

***Winner* - The Mail on Sunday**



The Mail
ON SUNDAY

Judges comments

"The Mail on Sunday's investigation into fatal flaws at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital was exemplary public service journalism, and the repercussions are being felt right now in the midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The revelation that contamination in the new hospital caused the deaths of patients led directly to the opening of Edinburgh's new Sick Children's Hospital being delayed, and as a result a brand new facility is lying empty while the country faces its gravest-ever health crisis. The investigation is evidence of the Mail's continued investment in its Scottish operation which produces a strong package, very distinct from the English edition, and a sales performance well above industry averages. It was a great team effort and even though last year seems so long ago now, this is one story which still matters.

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