The RSL elects 45 new Fellows and Honorary Fellows

The new RSL Fellows for 2019 (pictured in bold)
Hanan al-Shaykh, Monica Ali, David Baddiel, Mary Beard,
Elleke Boehmer, Jez Butterworth, Vahni Capildeo,
Debjani Chatterjee, Esther Freud, Stephen Fry, Peter Gill, Armando Iannucci,
Catherine Johnson, Cynan Jones, Olivia Laing,
Patrick McGuinness, Jonathan Meades, Sinéad Morrissey, Sarah Moss,
Virginia Nicholson, David Olusoga, Susie Orbach, Nina Raine, Denise Riley,
Lawrence Scott, Elif Shafak, Nikesh Shukla, Dorothea Smartt and Stella Tillyard.

New RSL Honorary Fellows for 2019 (pictured in bold)
Ellah Wakatama Allfrey, Syima Aslam, Pete Ayrton, Bibi Bakare-Yusuf,
Sharmilla Beezmohun, Xandra Bingley, Michael Codron, Dan Franklin,
Richard Hollis, Nicholas Hytner, Susheila Nasta, Stephen Page, Stuart Proffitt,
William Sieghart, Nicola Solomon and Nicholas Spice.

This year’s Benson Medallist, for exceptional contribution to the advancement of
literature, is Susheila Nasta.

The RSL hosted the evening at The Royal Society,
6–9 Carlton House Terrace, St. James’s, London SW1Y 5AG on Monday 24 June.

Press should contact Annette Brook, Communications Manager:
Email annette@rsliterature.org | Telephone 020 7845 4680
NOTES TO EDITORS

The presentation of Fellows and Summer Party took place on Monday 24 June 2019. Following the presentations and President Marina Warner’s address, acclaimed actor Adjoa Andoh performed literary readings from the work of the late Andrea Levy, RSL Fellow – to celebrate her contribution to literature.

The Royal Society of Literature
Founded in 1820, the RSL is Britain’s national charity for the advancement of literature. We act as a voice for the value of literature, engage people in appreciating literature and encourage and honour great writers.
@RSLiterature
rsliterature.org

Election as a Fellow of the RSL is a uniquely prestigious literary honour, awarded by writers to writers. To be elected, a writer must have published at least two works of outstanding literary merit (or equivalent material), in any literary form. The total number of Fellows currently stands at around 600. Newly-elected Fellows are introduced each year at the RSL’s Summer Party. While the RSL Chair, Lisa Appignanesi, reads a citation for each, they are invited to sign their names in the Roll Book which dates back to the Society’s incorporation under Royal Charter in 1825.

The Council of the RSL elects as Honorary Fellows those who have rendered special service to the Society, or who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of literature, for example as publishers, agents, booksellers, literature professionals or producers.

New Fellows sign the RSL Roll Book using T. S. Eliot’s fountain pen, Byron’s pen or George Eliot’s pen, which was first introduced last year.

George Eliot’s pen
We are extremely grateful to Jonathan Ouvry – President of the George Eliot Fellowship – and his wife Marjorie Ouvry for loaning this pen to the Society. We are thrilled that the pen of such a celebrated writer will be used by new Fellows in her bicentenary year.