

A weekly look at what's happening in and around Stromness.

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STROMNESS

Author and poet set for Stromness

"AND IN the end it's not the years in your life that count; it's the life in your years."

This aphorism by Abraham Lincoln catches your eye as you enter Nabin Chhetri's website.

It is something Nepalese-born Scottish poet Nabin Chhetri believes in. It is a thought that readers of his poetry may want to consider, as they approach Nabin's poems, alongside his straightforward, candid admission: "I write every day without hope or despair."

His poetry and indeed work is underpinned by that maxim "the life in your years". Nabin's work looks at memory, home, family and landscape, seen through the lyrical screen of distance and separation.

Perhaps these concluding lines to one of his works will strike a chord:

*As the guard blows the whistle
long shadows of metal
carriages
shift shapes in the phosphorescent light.*

*My childhood memories, just like the train,
chug through the dark,
into the vast countryside of Bengal.*

Orkney Arts Society (OAS), is proud to host him at the Stromness Town Hall on Tuesday March 14, for an evening of poetry reading, where Nabin will read from his published and forthcoming publications.

His first poetry collection was published in the States by Red Mountain Press, while his second, *I, Father* is forthcoming under the imprint of Eyewear, Black Spring Press group (UK).

Nabin graduated with an M.St. in Creative Writing from Oxford University and an M.Litt. in The Novel from the University of Aberdeen. His activities include tutoring in creative writing, and conducting workshops/readings in various institutions, including Oxford University and Robert Gordon University.

He is also writing his debut novel, *The Red Moon Trails*,

a war novel based in Nepal, an extract from which was recently selected by "Our Voices", a joint competition launched by Creative Scotland and the Association of Scottish Literary Agents (ASLA).

He has been the recipient of various commissions, nationally and internationally — including by Stanza, "Scotland's International Poetry Festival" — and awards. His works have been recognised in Canada, Australia, Italy, India, Nepal, the UK, the US and Israel.

All are welcome to join the OAS at the Town Hall, Stromness, on Tuesday, March 14, and find out more about our guest poet and his life and work, which crosses cultures and traditions, from his native high mountains and valleys of Nepal to Scotland's rugged nature and craggy coastline.

After his readings, Nabin will be happy to engage in conversation with the audience.



Acclaimed poet and author Nabin Chhetri will be a guest of the Orkney Arts Society this Tuesday.