

2010



FESTIVAL OF WRITING

Collingwood College, Durham.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday,

3rd – 5th September

Chair's Welcome

I should like to welcome you to the National Association of Writers' Groups 2010 Annual Festival of Writing.

Organising the Festival this year has been a challenge for the Board of Trustees, as we have had to find a new venue and we also wanted to bring new tutors and events to the Festival.

To this end we are very pleased to welcome Tim Wilson, Kate Walker and Stephen Wade, who will be tutors for the whole weekend.

We are also very pleased to welcome back both Bob Beagrie and Marvin Close to the Festival as Saturday tutors.

We have changed the format of the Festival this year, moving the AGM from Sunday to Saturday afternoon. There will also be a live performance by Bob Beagrie and Andy Broderick.

Byker Books will be in attendance at the Festival on Saturday and for those wishing to relax there is the opportunity for relaxation sessions with Steve Bowkett, and reflexology / massage sessions with Frances A. Flint.

There will be the opportunity to get some writing done, and to take part in either the 'hot penning' or 'loosely a limerick' on Saturday afternoon. Alternatively try your hand at the 100 Word Mini-Tale.

For those who have been short-listed in the NAWG Annual Competitions there will be a drinks reception prior to the Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony on the Saturday evening.

The evening will culminate in 'After Dinner Sparkles – your 4 minutes of fame'. For those who simply want to relax and have a quietish drink, you can always adjourn to the bar.

Sunday will be a morning of recovery for some tutors and Festival attendees. There will be one final workshop, lunch and then it's all over for another year. Time to say goodbye to new and old friends.

I hope you are able to join us for what may well be our last Festival in Durham. We have had some great years in Durham but will be looking at new venues for the 2011 Festival.

If anyone has suggestions on possible venues please feel free to either email us at secretary@nawg.co.uk, or come and find myself or one of the other members of the Board of Trustees at the Festival.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Nicolette Ward

Chair

A few words from the Membership Secretary / Webmaster

I shall be going to the festival this year wearing two hats – Membership Secretary and Webmaster and I am looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones, which is impossible not to do at these uplifting events, amongst so many like-minded people.

I've been coming to the festival for many years and four years ago I joined the board of trustees and did my two year stint. After a break I rejoined the board earlier this year. This makes me a very new girl once again, but I'm doing my best.

Please book your place and come along to the Festival in Durham so that I can meet as many of you as possible – putting faces to names on my boring membership spread sheets will be great. It looks like being an extra special event this year so come and top up your writing skills and enjoy a remarkable weekend in beautiful surroundings at the same time.

Pam Fish.

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Collingwood College – Durham University

Collingwood is in an ideal location within easy walking distance from the centre of the historic city of Durham. There is free car parking on site, with a turning circle at the entrance available for guests easy access.

The accommodation offered by Collingwood is of a high quality with a 'three diamond' English Tourism Council rating. All rooms are situated within the college and offer a peaceful setting.

The accommodation available: En-suite rooms, each with a private shower, toilet and hand basin, built-in wardrobe and tea/coffee making facilities and radio alarm clocks. Sixteen of these en-suite rooms are twin occupancy and a further nine are adapted for wheelchair users.

Also, comfortable single bedrooms, which are fully carpeted, centrally heated with their own wash basin. Showers and toilets are conveniently located on each floor along with kitchenettes with microwaves.

For guests requiring easy access, ground floor rooms in both en-suite and standard rooms are available on request.

All rooms have bed linen (duvets) and towels provided and they are serviced daily.

Breakfast, Lunch and Evening Meal are served each day in the main dining hall.

Guests can check-in from 2.00pm onwards, rooms should be vacated by 10.00am on the day of departure. Luggage can be stored if required.



Directions for travel to Collingwood College



By Car:

From the A1 (M)

Take the A690 turning sign posted Durham. Continue straight on across the first roundabout take the left turn across the bridge. Continue along this road through four sets of traffic lights. Collingwood College is the third turning on the left hand side.

From the A167

Take the turning sign posted Durham at the Cock of the North roundabout. Follow the road towards the City Centre and approximately 1 mile turn right into Collingwood College.

By Bus:

The number 6 bus runs every 15 minutes from Durham Bus Station and stops outside the College.

By Train:

Durham is well served by the rail network. The journey from the station to the college is about 5 minutes by taxi.

By Air:

The nearest airports are Newcastle upon Tyne and Teesside. Newcastle Airport is linked to Durham by rail.

Festival Tutors

Kate Walker

Kate Walker has been writing for Harlequin Mills & Boon Modern Romance since 1984. During that time she has over 56 novels published, with three new titles contracted for 2010/11. Her novels have been published in over thirty-five countries and around twenty different languages worldwide. Kate Walker is also the author of the award-winning 12 Point Guide to Writing Romance (StudyMates) which gives an introduction to the essential skills needed to succeed as a writer of romance. The first edition sold out and a second, expanded and revised edition was published in April 2008. The third edition of her Straightforward Guide to Writing Romantic Fiction (Straightforward Publishing) was published in April 2007.

She has an MA in English from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and worked as a Children's Librarian before concentrating on writing full-time. She has run writing days and workshops on fiction and has given over two hundred talks to writers' groups, libraries, further education colleges, Women's Institutes and other women's groups. She has also run many internet classes and workshops and has led one day workshops on writing romance at Huddersfield, Northern College, Caerleon Writers' Holidays, and the National Association of Writers' Groups Writing Festival in Durham. She has appeared at Huddersfield Reading Matters Festival, the Derbyshire Literature Festival, and the North Lincolnshire Libraries' Reading Festival. She is a member of the Romantic Novelists' Association and Romance Writers of America, has taught several times at the RNA Conference and has read and critiqued unpublished novels for their New Writers' Scheme since 2000. In 2004 she gave seminars on writing romance at the Romance Writers of Australia and the Romance Writers of New Zealand national conferences. She has run workshops on the 12 Point Guide to writing Romance at Lincoln, Guildford and Louth Literature Festivals, Caerleon and Fishguard Writing Weekends, Arts Training Central Write Away Courses and Highland and Island Arts, Scotland

Her upcoming releases are *Claimed By The Sicilian* (3 in 1 collection of reprints April 2010) *A Good Greek Wife?* (July 2010) and a new novel as yet untitled for late 2010

Website: <http://www.kate-walker.com/>

Stephen Wade

Stephen Wade writes across several non-fiction genres, but specialises in crime history. His recent books include *Tracing Your Criminal Ancestors*, *DNA Crime Investigations* and *Escapes from the Noose*. He has just completed his first biography: a life of Thomas Rowlandson, the Regency artist. He also writes regularly for the family history magazines and for *Writing* magazine. For the last six years he has worked as a writer in various prisons.

Tim Wilson

Tim Wilson has an M.A. in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia. His first novel was published when he was 23 and since then he has had 29 novels published which have been translated into 9 languages.

He was shortlisted for Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year in 1993, twice shortlisted for the Ellis Peters Crime Writers' Memorial Dagger, and his novel *Passion* was chosen as Book of the Year 2005 by Hilary Mantel, Tracy Chevalier and Joanna Trollope. He has taught Creative Writing for ten years.

He lives in Peterborough with his wife and son.



Andy Broderick

Andy Broderick is a visual artist and folk musician, originally from Ireland, he now lives in Saltburn by the Sea.

He has performed at folk festivals and folk clubs across the country and has worked with a number of poets, developing original scores to accompany their readings.

Andy will accompany Bob on his guitar as he reads a section from his latest book, *The Seer Sung Husband*, an epic poem of magic, love and rebellion set in Tudor England.

Festival Tutors



Bob Beagrie

Bob Beagrie lives in Middlesbrough and is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Teesside University. As well as lecturing at B.A and M.A level Bob also works in schools and with community groups as a freelance writer. He is a Biscuit Poetry Prize winner and recipient of a Northern Writers Time to Write Award. Between 1997 – 2002 worked as Literature Officer at Cleveland Arts (now Tees Valley Arts), running the Buzzwords Programme.

His publications include: Gothic Horror (Mudfog 1996), Masque: The Art of the Vampyre (Mudfog 2000), Huginn & Munnin (Biscuit 2002), Endeavour: Newfoundland Notes (Biscuit 2004), The Isle of St Hild (Hartlepool Borough Council 2004), Perkele (Ek Zuban 2006) and Yoik (Cinnamon 2008), The Seer Sung Husband, (Smokestack Books 2010). Glass Characters is due to be published by Red Squirrel Press in 2011. His poems have also appeared in many magazines and anthologies. He was short listed for the Forward Poetry Prize 2009 and has performed his work across the U.K. and Europe.

Along with Andy Willoughby he also runs an independent small press called Ek Zuban, which publishes bi-lingual pamphlets and a tri-yearly writing and arts magazine entitled KENAZ. Throughout his career Bob has worked in collaboration with other writers, visual artists, musicians, actors, dancers, sculptors and film makers to explore the cross disciplinary potential of poetry and spoken word.

Marvin Close

Marvin Close - Marvin's TV credits include Coronation Street, Emmerdale, Doctors and Tracey Beaker. A former writer-in-residence at Manchester's Library Theatre, his ten stage plays include the award-winning Dorothy Parker's Dead. He co-wrote the BBC radio comedy series', Arnold Brown and Company, and Where Were You?, and was recently Script Consultant on the new Nickelodeon TV children's mystery drama series, Anubis House.

His latest book, More Than Just A Game: Football vs. Apartheid (co-written with Chuck Korr) is out worldwide through Harper Collins (St Martin's Press in the USA) in English, Japanese, Korean, Italian, Dutch and Czech. It's the true story of how political prisoners on Robben Island used football as a vehicle for resistance against South Africa's apartheid regime, and was Book of the Week in both The Independent and The Irish Times.

National Association of Writers' Groups Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place at 1.30 on Saturday 4th September, 2010 at Collingwood College, Durham University. This meeting is an important event in the Association's year and all members are invited to attend.

New volunteers from affiliated writing groups are always needed as the Association continues to expand. If you have specialist skills in an area you feel the Association could use, please consider offering your time and experience. The August 2010 issue of Link will publish details of the procedure should you wish to join the Board or to offer your services.

The Annual General Meeting should not take long and it will be followed by an Open Forum, where everyone may offer suggestions on the running of the Association. The meeting must end at 2.15 to give time to those wishing to get to workshops.

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Relaxation Session with Steve Bowkett

Steve qualified as a hypnotherapist in 1991 and as well as dealing with many hundreds of clients has also run relaxation and self-hypnosis workshops up and down the country. On a number of occasions these workshops have focussed on developing creativity, dealing with writer's block, recovering desired memories, becoming the characters in your story and other topics that may be of interest to NAWG members.

Relaxing in hypnosis is an easy skill to learn. Hypnosis is not sleep but instead is a state where the conscious mind becomes settled and calm. Attention turns inward and during such a period of tranquillity pleasant imagery (which you can choose for yourself) is imagined with great clarity. The experience is a wonderful 'journey of the imagination' and afterwards one feels relaxed and yet invigorated.

Steve will be running 30-minute relaxation sessions at the Festival. He will also be available throughout the weekend if you wanted to ask any questions about hypnosis and hypnotherapy. There is also information on Steve's website – www.stevebowkett.co.uk

As an author Steve has published 53 books including fiction for children and educational books on literacy, thinking skills, creativity, emotional resourcefulness and spirituality.



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FESTIVAL OF WRITING

The 2010 Festival of Writing Mini-Tale Competition

Pull-out sheet

The 2010 Festival of Writing Mini-Tale Competition

Pull-out sheet

Workshops

Kate Walker:

Friday evening

What Sort of Fiction Should I Write? (KW-FRI-01)

Commercial publishing is a highly competitive world. Knowing how to focus on the type of fiction you can write best is an advantage in this often cut-throat business. But how do you decide where your focus should lie?

These 3 workshops will be particularly focussed on writing Romantic Fiction which is my speciality. But they will also be helpful for anyone who wants to write any sort of fiction, particularly commercial genre fiction. They can be used as a mini course - or dipped into by someone who just wants to do one or the other.

Saturday morning

1. Creating Characters (KW-SAT-01)

An essential skill for successful commercial fiction is to create believable and sympathetic character. Whether storm-tossed lovers, hardened, cynical detectives or even blue headed aliens from another planet you need to build characters the readers care about and who come alive on the page. This workshop will give you techniques and ideas how to do just that.

Saturday afternoon

2. Plotting (KW-SAT-02)

Are you a planner or a pantser? Do you plot your story in details or 'travel hopefully into the mist'? How do you create a romantic story - or indeed any sort of story - that will keep your readers turning the page and avoid the dreaded 'sagging middle'?

Sunday morning

3. Writing A Sex Scene (KW-SUN-01)

Very little commercial fiction that involves the relationships between men and women (or indeed same sex relationships) is published today that doesn't involve dealing with the passionate and sexual aspects of that relationship. So how do you write a believable, emotional, sensual scene that works for your characters and keeps you out of the short-list for the annual Bad Sex Awards?

Workshops

Stephen Wade:

Friday Evening

Looking at Your Writing: Present and Future. (SW-FRI)

Saturday morning

Writing Non-Fiction -Workshop 1 - Preparation, Ideas and Skills + case study (SW-SAT-01)

Saturday afternoon

Writing Non-Fiction -Workshop 2 - Research and Synopsis + case study (SW-SAT-02)

Sunday morning

Writing Non-Fiction -Workshop 3 - Structure & Content: theme, period, people etc. (SW-SUN)

Members of the group will read and discuss their concept.

Tim Wilson:

Friday Evening

Historical Fiction Workshop 1: Approaching historical fiction (TW-FRI)

An overview of the historical fiction market and its sub-genres, the way it is developing, do's and don'ts in approaching it, and valuable tips from an established historical novelist.

Saturday morning

Historical Fiction Workshop 2: Research for historical fiction (TW-SAT-01)

Tips on how to find the information you really want, to avoid inaccuracy, and how not to waste your research time: using primary and secondary sources, the internet, etc.

Saturday afternoon

Historical Fiction Workshop 3: Language and style in historical fiction (TW-SAT-02)

Perhaps the most challenging and complex question in writing historical fiction: how should I write it, in the style of the time, or not? - how did people talk back then? - and how can I avoid absurdity?

Sunday morning

Poetry Workshop: Poetry: Rhythm and Meaning (TW-SUN)

A course looking in detail at the relationship between the rhythms employed in poetry of all kinds, and what the writer wants to express.

Bob Beagrie

Saturday afternoon

Back To Basics: An Introduction to Poetry (BB-SAT-02)

Join Bob to take a look at the basics of writing poetry and to play around with different approaches and techniques.

This fun, practical workshop will help those interested in writing poetry to become less intimidated by what many see as a daunting genre of writing. Guided activities will allow participants to explore sound patterns and image making, and experiment with set forms and free verse.

The workshop will also act as a refresher for those more familiar with poetry.

Marvin Close

Saturday morning

Beating Writers' Block (MC-SAT-01)

Writing games, exercises and sound commonsense advice all aimed at filling that blank page. Learnt from bitter experience over 20 years as a full-time writer, these are methods that really work.

Saturday afternoon

How to Write Flash Fiction (MC-SAT-02)

More writing competitions are featuring prizes for short, flash fiction stories - BBC Radio 4 has recently started commissioning them. This workshop reveals how to pack a dramatic punch in 200 word stories.

Harmony

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NAWG Conference price

£15.00 (for 45mins)

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NAWG Conference price

£10.00 (for 30mins)

I have been involved as a member of staff and as a volunteer in the voluntary sector for most of my adult life. Starting off as a Samaritan volunteer, this led on to me taking up training opportunities, qualifying in the Diploma in Humanistic Counselling Skills, and the Community and Youth Work Diploma.

I have worked as a tutor on the counselling and personal development courses for North Warwickshire and Hinckley College, City College Coventry and as a freelance trainer for CEDC (Con tinYou, a Community Learning Organisation)

I am presently employed as a Regional Co-ordinator for the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation in the West Midlands, and am developing my complimentary therapy business opportunities in order to expand this work in 2011.

I love writing, and enjoy the opportunity to be with creative thinkers in the hope that their commitment and energy will rub off on me as I embark on the storytellers' journey.

“Harmony” Frances A. Flint VTCT Indian Head Massage Diploma. IHHHT – MICHT – ITEC Diploma in Reflexology Member of the Federation of Holistic Therapists Complimentary Therapies & Personal Development - f.flint@btopenworld.com – 02476 670115

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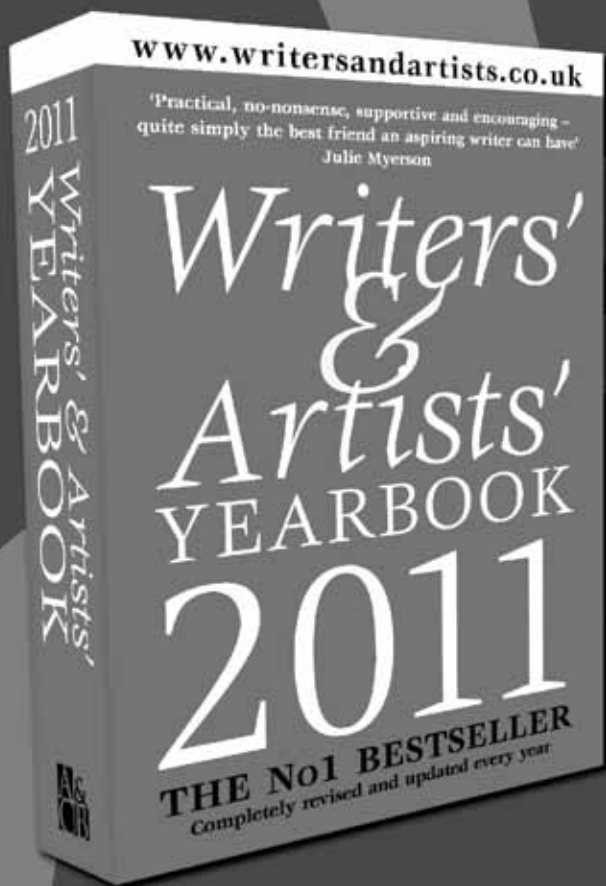
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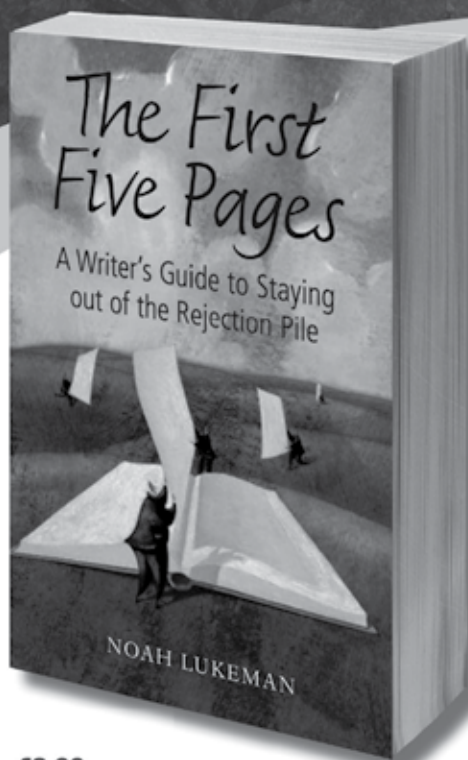
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2010 Festival Timetable

There will be a **Grand Raffle**, with tickets on sale to all attending the **2010 Festival of Writing. The first prize is a fabulous Writing Course with the Writers' Bureau.** This generous prize has been given by the Writers' Bureau. Books and a free year's subscription to Mslexia are just a few of the many other prizes that we are now assembling to make this the best raffle for your enjoyment. Tickets will be on sale throughout Friday and Saturday until the Draw on Saturday afternoon.

FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

2.30pm	Check in
3.30pm	Tea/coffee and scones – introduction to the NAWG committee
5.30pm	Meet the tutors
6.00pm	Welcome and evening meal
7.30pm – 9.00pm	Workshop
9.15pm	Poetry/music performance from Bob Beagrie and Andy Broderick

SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

7.30am – 9.00am	Breakfast
9.30am – 11.15am	Morning workshop (coffee and tea)
11.30am – 12.30pm	Drop-ins / one to ones, optional talk
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm – 2.15pm	AGM
2.30pm – 3.30pm	Flashfiction / Hot penning, Loosely Limerick, raffle
3.30pm – 5.30pm	Workshop
5.30pm – 6.30pm	Writing time (silent room)
6.45pm – 7.20pm	Drinks reception for winners/short-listed
7.30pm	Gala Dinner (thank tutors)
9.30pm	After Dinner Sparkles (4 minutes fame)

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

8.00am – 9.30am	Breakfast
10.00am – 12.00	Workshop
12.00 – 1.00pm	Lunch / Closing ceremony