

Writers' Gathering D&G

The Print Room, Wigtown

Saturday 11th May 2019



TIME	ACTIVITY
09:30-10:00	Registration and teas/coffees
10:00-10:10	Welcome from Wigtown Festival Co.
10:10-10:50	Keynote: Gerda Stevenson Topic: On working successfully across different genres and disciplines
10:50-11:30	Break-out sessions: The Writing Process Groups will discuss one of three topics, and come up with 5 top tips: <i>How do you get into a creative state for writing?</i> <i>How do you stay motivated to keep writing, and enjoy it?</i> <i>How do you fit your writing schedule around your life?</i>
11:30-12:45	Morning workshops (select one from three running concurrently) <u>Either</u> Workshop A Lucy Ribchester: Tell the story, not the research Most writing requires some form of research, and when you've invested months, years, into your research, it's tempting not to let it go to waste and to squeeze as much of it as possible into your writing. But do readers really want a forensic treatment of the subject or do they just want a good yarn? Find out how not to get too bogged down in research and how to write credibly yet still create something that people will want to read. <u>Or</u> Workshop B Claire Wingfield: Your author website and online profile Find out why all writers should have an author website, what to put on one and how to build it. The workshop will include examples of successful author websites, a chance to sketch a plan of your own website, how to set up an author mailing list, and an insight into different website-building tools. Includes a website checklist and an introduction to the benefits of blogging and using social media to enhance your online profile. (15 max.) <u>Or</u> Workshop C Allan Guthrie: 50 practical tips to improve your writing From avoiding pleonasms (and finding out what they are) to choosing the correct verb, Allan Guthrie offers 50 simple ways you can clean up your manuscript. Get some essential tips and tricks on how to polish your writing from someone who has worked in many areas of the book business over the past couple of decades.

12:45-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-14:45	<p>Afternoon workshops (select one from three running concurrently)</p> <p><u><i>Either</i></u> Workshop D Claire Wingfield: How to be successful at self-publishing Should you consider self-publishing your book? What's the best way to go about this? What are the benefits of self-publishing? Find out about the nuts and bolts of production (typesetting, cover design, where to get your ISBNs, beginning and end matter), and about refining your product. The workshop will also outline routes to market, production costs and pricing your books, and how to develop an ongoing publishing strategy – including different formats. Includes a publishing checklist. (15 max.)</p> <p><u><i>Or</i></u> Workshop E Gerda Stevenson: On use of the voice in poetry When done well, employing a particular register, syntax or voice in your poetry can be an effective creative tool, adding relevant layers, tones and meaning to a poem. How do you represent different dialects, languages and accents? Gerda Stevenson offers helpful advice on the use of different voices and language techniques in poetry. (15 max.)</p> <p><u><i>Or</i></u> Workshop F Karen Campbell: Make Writing your Business There are many great writers out there, but not all of them get heard. Often, persistence, professionalism – and a wee bit of pushiness! – are as important as the craft itself. This workshop will look at ways to approach an agent/publisher, including creating a synopsis and pitching and positioning your work. But it will also focus on your approach to writing itself. If you don't take your work seriously, why should someone else? Find out ways to keep the momentum going: word counts, mini deadlines, pebbles in jars – we'll explore them all.</p>
14:45-15:00	Tea/coffee break
15:00-16:15	One-to-one sessions with all speakers (15 minutes each)
16:15- 16:30	Conclusion and evaluation
<i>All day</i>	<i>Book fair: Writers can bring and sell their work; a chance to buy books from the day's tutors.</i>

If you have any questions, please contact: isla@wigtownbookfestival.com or 01988 402036.