

August Newsletter 2008

Hi all,

We've got this month the last of our summer season of **Write Club training** sessions: a one day workshop with Catherine Smith on finishing your fiction. Details are on our website: www.thesouth.org.uk. We're also currently offering an **early bird discount** on some of our workshops coming up in the autumn, including workshops on the Haiku and the Small Poem, and a three month workshop on developing a screenplay with Heather Taylor. Check them out on our website now and book your place before the 8th August to take advantage of our early bird offers!

Workshop and Meeting Room: venue hire. We've tailored our prices to suit writers and workers in the creative industries: have a look at our price list, attached. And Friends of THE SOUTH will automatically receive a 10% discount on all prices – possibly more for regular events!

Also this month we will be hosting a series of **Mentoring Surgeries**, for poets and scriptwriters looking to get expert one-to-one advice on their work from experienced, professional writers. We'll have poetry sessions with none other than Brendan Cleary on Saturday 30th August and scriptwriting sessions with Heather Taylor on Saturday 6th September. For more details about these sessions have a look online at www.thesouth.org.uk; but book up fast as places are limited!

Finally, we launch this month our annual **Free Read competition**. This year we will be reading in two categories: poetry and short fiction. Get your work read by the Literary Consultancy, providers of expert professional and editorial advice.

For information about all our activities and opportunities for your greater involvement please see our website www.thesouth.org.uk or if you have any other questions give Cara or me a call.

Best wishes

Nathan O'Donnell
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EVENTS

Tight Lip, Friday 15 August, 8pm at the Permanent Gallery

With Joolz Denby (*Stone Baby*, *Corazon*, *Billie Morgan*, *Borrowed Light*). Joolz is an award-winning, multi-nominated novelist; for her debut novel *Stone Baby* (Harper Collins) Joolz won the Crime Writer's Association New Crime Writer of the Year Award. Her third novel *Billie Morgan* (Serpent's Tail) was shortlisted for the 2005 Orange Prize. Joolz will be reading an extract from her latest novel *Wild Thing*, as yet unpublished. With support from local writers (to be arranged). Tickets: £4 on door. See www.tightlip.co.uk

Tales from Beneath: creative writing workshops for young people, Tues 19 August, 10 am – 1.15 pm at Fabrica Gallery, Duke Street, Brighton

[Little Green Pig Writing Project](#) will be running two writing workshops especially for children

and young people. Armed with a pen and paper, we'll be delving into The Undercroft and writing some stories and poems inspired by what we find down there. Come and join us on our writing expedition! Session 1: 10-11.30am (7-11 yrs). Session 2: 11.45am-1.15pm (12-16 yrs). £3 per person. Please book in advance by contacting Little Green Pig at littlegreenpig@yahoo.co.uk or tel: 07976 548 856

□ WRITE CLUB TRAINING WRITING WORKSHOPS AT THE SOUTH

Endgame with Catherine Smith, Saturday 9th August, 10 am - 4 pm at Brighton Writers' Centre

£32/£30 concs, Friends of THE SOUTH £30/£28 concs.

You've come this far with your narrative...so why is the ending proving so difficult and unsatisfactory? In this practical and supportive workshop, we'll look at some of the problems presenting themselves when writing the final part of a short story or novel, and, discussing narrative structure in general different types of endings in particular, and also looking at several examples from published work, explore practical strategies for writing satisfying and resonant endings. Please bring work in progress plus a brief synopsis/summary if you're working on a novel and be prepared to share your work and your ideas!

Catherine Smith writes prose, poetry and drama. She has published three collections of poetry, *The New Bride*, *The Butcher's Hands and Lip*. Catherine has been listed as one of the 'Next Generation' poets by the Poetry Book Society/Guardian and her short stories and drama has appeared in various anthologies and on Radio 4. She is also a highly experienced creative writing tutor and teaches at universities and schools in the region.

Mentoring Surgeries with THE SOUTH, Saturdays 30th August & 6th September at Brighton Writers' Centre

£150 per 2 hour session

Would you like help developing your writing? Got something to say but can't find the words? Got a burning question to ask someone a few steps along the publishing line from you? THE SOUTH 1-2-1 puts you in front of published writers that can help you get to the centre of your story, giving you the unique opportunity to get in-depth critique and advice from someone that knows your genre.

We are running surgeries in two categories: **Poetry** and **Scriptwriting**. Your work will be submitted two weeks in advance to your mentor for reading and critiquing and you'll have the opportunity to pose your own questions to them on submission, or just ask for general feedback. Your mentor will then spend two hours with you at the Brighton Writers Centre in a one-to-one session to help you get the most from you and your work.

- Saturday 30th August. Poetry Surgeries with Brendan Cleary
- Saturday 6th September. Scriptwriting Surgeries with Heather Taylor

Brendan Cleary is a highly respected poet and teacher, who works closely with poetry publishers Pighog Press. He has published 4 full length collections including *White Bread and ITV: Selected Poems 1985 – 1990* (Wide Skirt Press), *The Irish Card and Sacrilege* (Bloodaxe), and *stranger in the house* (Wrecking Ball Press). *Jackson* was published by Pighog Press in 2004 and, by tall-lighthouse, *Weightless* in 2006 and *Some Turbulent Weather* in 2008.

Heather Taylor is a writer, performer and educator whose writing has been performed and published throughout Europe, Asia and North America. Her full collection *horizon & back* was

published by Tall Lighthouse in October 2005 and she recently toured the 2-person poetry show, *Accents on Words*, in the UK, Ireland and India. As a playwright, her work has been seen at the Tricycle, Soho Theatre, Greenwich, the Pleasance, & Theatre 503 in London as well as in various venues throughout the UK and Canada. This year, two of her short films are set for production and her first feature film will be released in conjunction with Artificial Eye and NFTS.

For further details or to sign up for any of our workshops go to www.thesouth.org.uk or alternatively if you have any questions get in touch. Call 01273 571700 or email: nathan@thesouth.org.uk

□ PARTNER WORKSHOPS

FICTIONALISING AUTOBIOGRAPHY: a new weekend course with Janet Cameron and Paul Curd, Friday 12 – Sunday 14 September at Brighton Writers' Centre

This course explores the potential for autobiography to 'make the ordinary seem extraordinary'. Some people write autobiography to leave a record for their family while others realise the potential of their experience as material for apparent fictional writing. Whatever your style, you can learn techniques that will help you to produce lively, original work.

You'll look at excerpts by established authors to see how they deal with problems confronting all writers, followed by a close examination of the techniques of fiction and experimenting with imagery, narrative, dialogue, character development, physicality, timeframes and psychological depth. You'll learn to write, edit and revise a short story which demonstrates the techniques of crafting, style, originality and understanding of structure. With well-published, award-winning writers and teachers **Janet Cameron** and **Paul Curd**, co-founders of Word Fountain.

Dates: Friday 12 September, 7.00pm-9.00pm (optional). Saturday 10.00 am-4.30pm. Sat Evening 7.00pm-9.00pm: One-2-One Tutorials and Writing Time. Sunday 14 September, 10.00 am-4.30pm. **Cost:** £90. **Contact:** Janet Cameron, Flat 1, 3 Medina Villas, Hove, BN3 2RJ. Tel: 01273 770611. Email janet.cameron@btinternet.com or go to <http://wordfountain.wordpress.com>

A weekend of Yoga and Creative Writing, October 17th - 19th in Rustington, East Sussex

Relax. Energise. Be Inspired. Come and join in the beautiful surroundings of a country house on the edge of Rustington in East Sussex. From Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime you will renew yourself with a relaxing weekend of yoga and creative writing led by experienced tutors. A treat for mind and body. The weekend will suit beginners and experienced alike and there will be time to explore the grounds and surrounding area and indulge yourself with delicious home cooked meals and optional extra massage. There is a limit of 10 places to ensure a friendly and sociable atmosphere. Book early to reserve a place.

With tutors **Amanda Zaninetti** and **Maria Jastrzemska**. Amanda is a fully qualified British Wheel of yoga teacher, exercise teacher and holistic massage therapist with over 20 years experience. Her classes are taught with consideration for the uniqueness of each student and with an emphasis on movements of the spine, breathing and relaxation. Maria is a poet, editor, translator and creative writing tutor who is published in the U.K and abroad, with recent collections including *Syreana* (Redbeck Press). She creates a friendly, encouraging atmosphere in her workshops which are dynamic and stretching at the same time.

Price: £230 per person based on sharing a twin room. This includes all tuition and meals (Friday evening, Sat/Sun breakfast, Sat/Sun lunch and Sat evening) soft drinks and snacks. There are double rooms also available and an accessible room on the ground floor. **Contact:** deborahprice.training@ntlworld.com. Phone Deborah 07974651601 or Amanda 07939830096.

□ PROJECTS

THE SOUTH Free Read Competition now inviting submissions

THE SOUTH is now inviting submissions for its annual Free Read competition. We will this year be taking submissions in two categories: Poetry and Short Fiction. [...] The cost is £10 per entry. Please see the website (www.thesouth.org.uk) for full submission guidelines.

The High Weald Forest Ridge Project

Are you a creative writer based around the area of the Weald Forest Ridge, bordered by Tunbridge Wells, Crowborough, Uckfield, Horsham and Crawley? Or have you found this area, the old forest areas in particular (St Leonards, Worth, Ashdown and Waterdown), a source for your ideas? An inspiration? We are currently seeking, as part of a long term creative writing project in this area, to make contact with local writers and those whose work has been generated out of the Forest Ridge. If you'd like to get in touch please email Nathan at: nathan@thesouth.org.uk

Creating the Map

As part of our LIPS (local information providers) initiative we are creating a unique 'map' of all poetry groups, circles and collectives in the south of England. We want to find out where and when you meet, what you do, if you have a 'house style' and any other details you can give us. Please get in touch and tell us about what you're doing. Email Tom Cunliffe at tom@thesouth.org.uk. We'll be doing the same for other writers in due course

□ OTHER NEWS

THE SOUTH on Facebook

THE SOUTH has now got its own page on Facebook. Keep in touch, get updates about our new events and workshops and link up with our network of writers in the region. Check it out at: www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Brighton-United-Kingdom/The-South/9416885843

Creative Non-fiction Writer's Retreat in the Heart of Rural Sussex: Sept 3-4 2008

Day long workshops are available to schools and the retreat is also suitable for team building weekends or for advanced foreign students of English. Have a look at the website at thehouseparty.blogspot.com

Poetry OtherWise, 17 - 23rd August 2008

A week of workshops and events for poets, writers and all lovers of language. Contributing poets include: Roselle Angwin, Mimi Khalvati, Andie Lewenstein, Janis Mackay, Paul Matthews and Hugo Williams. Each morning there will be a workshop with the workshop leader of your choice and the focus will be on craft and creative process. For more information please visit www.poetryotherwise.org or telephone Emerson College on 01342 824799.

Call for Poetry Submissions for The Stony Thursday Book

The Stony Thursday Book is calling for submissions from local, national and international poets for the next issue which will be published in Limerick, Ireland, as part of Cuisle International Poetry Festival on 16th October 2008. This year's editor is Thomas McCarthy.

Closing date for submissions is **August 8th 2008**. When submitting poems, write your name and address on each page. Send poems to: The Arts Service, Limerick City Council, City Hall, Merchant's Quay, Limerick City Ireland. Further information from: The Arts Service. Email: artsoffice@limerickcity.ie or telephone 00353 61 407363.

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If you'd rather not receive this newsletter and updates from THE SOUTH, email us and let us know at: takemeoff@thesouth.org.uk