

Ready to start?

Off you go! The suggested topic for our first meeting is 'TIME' which you can interpret in any manner you choose: perhaps a time of the day, a day of week, a particular month, or a 'Good Time' you remember. Employ poetry or prose.

Not sure how to approach the topic? Here's an example...

MONDAY

I am Monday, and I am universally disliked.

Why?

I give value for money: the full twenty-four hours, the same as my six brethren.

Although they do claim that Saturday and Sunday appear shorter.

Yet I bring bad temper, stomach bugs and the doldrums.

The high spirits of my predecessors vanish and all I hear is depressing and cheerless.

I would love the occasional compliment, the odd happy, smiley face.

Once the hours have run, I am forgotten, consigned to the rubbish.

Nobody likes me.

I'll get my own back.

I'll be back.

Next week.

*By kind permission of Douglas Easthope
Stroud U3A and Thornbury U3A*

TETBURY & DISTRICT U3A CREATIVE WRITING GROUPS

*Science has built castles in the air,
conjured pictures from the ether
and turned time upside down.*

*But only an author's imagination can
take us to the unknown and unexpected
edges of the universe.*

Anon.

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Creative Writing! We all have our stories to tell but you can only improve if you practice regularly, exactly like learning to play the piano, and there is no more enjoyable way to explore your talents than in the company of other authors. This leaflet explains what we do.

What do we do?

We meet once a month for a two hour session, where we read our work aloud and support each other by suggestion and comment. If time allows we have a light-hearted writing exercise, which is intended to be fun. Groups work well with about eight members, to allow everyone ample time. It looks likely that we will start two groups, after the initial joint meeting on Tues 3rd Sept.

How much must I write?

The quick answer is 1,000 words, about one typed page. A maximum is 2,000 words but members often write less. There are people who write less than 200 words but their efforts are equally worth hearing. Poets generally produce short pieces so we ask them to read twice, to gain the most from their efforts.

If your work is longer than 2,000 words or particularly detailed, it might be easier to distribute copies for members to take away and read at their leisure.

What should I write about?

Anything! This is entirely up to you but, for those who appreciate prompts, there will be a list of future topics to be attempted. A typical example might be 'Morning', which can be a story, a poem, a haiku, or a personal recollection.

What are the objectives of the group?

Firstly to enjoy each other's company. Creative writing is a shared experience, a therapy! We try to improve the content and style of our writing until it is fit for a wider audience. Starting in January 2020, we shall begin submitting our best work for an Anthology of Tetbury Writers – distributed within the group.

What does it cost?

Only the cost of a meeting room, shared equally between all members and any visitors. The fee is likely to be in the region of £2.50 each, per meeting.

What about copyright?

Each author retains copyright; work is only shared by agreement. If we publicly present our work or publish any writings you can decide not to participate. No member can profit from our activities, so do not try to sell books at meetings.

Are there any rules?

We are seeking to be better writers so please try to bring your current work to meetings in handwritten or printed copies. Please do not bring a laptop, they have proved to be too disruptive. Try not to use lengthy quotes from other authors, however worthy; it is your voice we want to hear.

Who can attend?

All members of Tetbury U3A are welcome to join, until the point where we might have to declare the group 'full' and start another. A guest may attend for one or two meetings (payment required) to see if they would like to join us.

When and where do we meet?

Meetings will be on the first Tuesday of each month from 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm
If there is sufficient support there will be a second group, meeting 11am -1pm

We shall meet in the new meeting room at The Greyhound, Hampton Street, Tetbury. **The launch meeting is on Tuesday 3rd September at 2.30pm**
Please bring your contribution to the costs in cash, we cannot accept cheques.

Can I ask to join now?

Yes, submit your details to the T & D U3A Membership Secretary

A few courtesies we should observe

It is in the nature of writing groups that we take a continuing interest in each other's progress. We depend on regular attendance but, if you are away, you can email your contribution for us to hand out or read aloud at the meeting.

With our green credentials in mind, please do walk to the meeting if you can. There is little parking on Hampton Street and we should avoid parking in Court Field as this could annoy the residents. Please try not to arrive late.

We are meeting on licenced premises and The Greyhound is not charging us a commercial rate. We advocate that you buy a drink before the meeting, tea and coffee are available, and everyone's writing improves over a glass of wine! The pub plans to offer a lunch menu in future, if there is sufficient demand.