

Writing Courses in Galloway, South West Scotland

3 day residential workshops 12-14 May 2014 and 6 - 8 October 2014 (Mon - Wed)

Arrival time Sunday evening onwards, course start time 10am Monday, finishing time approx 4.30pm Wednesday.

Durhamhill's popular writing courses are back for 2014!

This is your chance to make the start to the writing you always promised yourself. With the support of two experienced and widely published tutors and in the beautiful tranquil setting of Durhamhill you couldn't have a finer opportunity for discovering your writing potential. And for the many writers who flourished on last year's successful courses, this is the chance to enjoy Durhamhill again and further hone your skills.

Durhamhill is the opportunity to turn rough ideas into stories or poems. If you already have some writing underway you will have time and guidance in editing and developing your work. Workshop topics will cover the creation of characters and plot, explain the role of narrative voice and provide guidance on life-writing. At Durhamhill there is ample time to discuss your ideas and work with your tutors and fellow writers.

Email us your booking - it could be the first lines of your life as a writer!

Margaret Elphinstone, a well-established historical novelist, is again living in Galloway where she was working as a gardener when her first novel was published in 1987. Her novels include 'Voyageurs', 'Light', 'Hy Brasil'. 'The Sea Road' appears in 'The 100 Best Scottish Books of all Time' produced by 'List Magazine'. Her most recent novel is 'The Gathering Night', set 8000 years ago among the hunter-gatherers of Mesolithic Scotland. She writes poetry and short stories and contributes articles to journals and other publications. Margaret is an Emeritus Professor of Strathclyde University where she was a member of the Department of English for 18 years. She was a Visiting Professor at central Michigan University in 1998 and 2001. She has extensive experience of teaching creative writing to children and adults at all levels and has been a regular tutor on international Arvon courses.

www.margaretelphinstone.co.uk

Mary Smith, writer, poet and journalist from Galloway, has poems widely published in poetry magazines and anthologies. A full collection of poems, "Thousands Pass Here Every Day", was published in 2012. Her novel, "No More Mulberries", is set in Afghanistan where she worked for several years. "Drunk Chickens and Burnt Macaroni: Real Stories of Afghan Woman" is a lively account of her time there, providing an insight into the lives of the Afghan women with whom she lived and worked. As a journalist, she has worked as a senior reporter on a local paper & a staff features writer with the award-winning consumer magazine 'Dumfries & Galloway Life'. She now writes features on a freelance basis. She has an MLitt in Creative Writing from Glasgow University and has taught Creative Writing at that University. She is the organiser of the Dumfries Writers' Group & facilitator for a disabled writers' group. www.marysmith.co.uk

Some comments from previous course participants:-

'Instant congenial vibe, neither intimidating or too formal, instantly absorbing. Thank you for inviting me out of my little world, showing me the great beyond.' U. Cowan

'From start to finish packed with challenging exercises but all participants contributed with elegant, entertaining, witty, sad or just plain fun, writing. We all came away better writers.' R. Windsor

'Very valuable, intense and worthwhile, should have been longer! Great atmosphere, wonderful location, very inspiring.' I Biggar

'An atmosphere of concentration, fun, encouragement, respect, support, humour....superb tuition, lovely group of people with widely divergent experience, beautiful and comfortable surroundings' F. Hlanze

'A beautiful location, very welcoming hosts and just the right amount of challenge and reassurance'.

'Supportive atmosphere, ideal surroundings, stimulating practical activities for positive learning, brilliant, great group of people, excellent course leaders' S. Hicks

Course fee £295, Early bird booking discount of £20 for bookings before 1st April 2014, £50 discount for couples
Number of participants is limited to allow plenty time for individual sessions, so early booking is recommended.
Fee includes 2/3 night stay in the 4-star Coach House, or large rooms in the main house, and food.

Contact Juliet on 01556 509021 or email mail@durhamhill.co.uk.

Website www.durhamhill.co.uk - scroll down page entitled studio/residential workshops