**Senior Travel Expert Travel Writing Competition**  
Closing date: Midnight on 1st June 2014  
Prizes: £100.00 on a prepaid currency card and published on website.  
Entry fee: Free to enter.  
For an exciting, original travel article up to 1,000 words, which may or may not relate to a senior travel experience.  
See the website for full details: [seniortravelexpert.com/writing-competition](http://seniortravelexpert.com/writing-competition)

**ALCS Award for Educational Writing**  
Closing date: 30th June, 2014.  
Prizes: £2,000.  
Entry fee: Free entry.  
Traditionally published non-fiction for 11-18 year-olds that enhances learning.  
Email: [pjohnson@societyofauthors.org](mailto:pjohnson@societyofauthors.org)  
Website: [societyofauthors.org](http://www.societyofauthors.org/)

**Thurrock Writers’ Festival 2014**

The Thurrock Writers’ Festival 2014 programme has been announced. It will take place at the Grays Library on Saturday June 14th between 10.00-4.00pm. Apart from the workshops there are sure to be a number of authors peddling their wares… not to mention our own Thurrock Writers’ Circle’s presence so we have no excuse not to attend.

Tickets for adult workshops £2.50 each

Tickets for children’s workshops £1 each

**In the Multizone**

* **10.15-11.15am** Creative writing hints and tips with Jean Fullerton
* **11.30-12.30** “How to tell your story” with Jean Fullerton
* **1.00-2.00pm** Practical workshop on writing short stories with Thurrock Writers Circle
* **2.15-3.15pm** “Finding the writer within you” with Sharon McGovern

**In Thameside Gallery**

* **10.30-11.30am** Creative writing for 8-12 year olds with Julie Earle
* **12.00-1.00pm** Creative writing for 8-12 year olds with Julie Earle (same workshop as earlier)
* **2.15-3.15pm** “I didn’t expect any of this! How writing can change your life” with 2013 Thurrock Writers Festival Short story winner Danielle Chinnon
* **3.45-4.00pm** 2014 Short story winners announced and read

**The Last Word (Almost)**

Here is a reminder that there is a **FREE** course that members may be interested in: the Open University is running a FREE eight week course on writing entitled, **Start Writing Fiction**, beginning **28th April 2014**. Go to <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/start-writing-fiction>

**Wise Words (At Last)**

‘[The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/v/vincelomba127517.html)’

Vince Lombardi

**Carpe Diem**

**Aesthetica Creative Writing Competition**

**Win £500 and publication**

Aesthetica Magazine is inviting all writers and poets to submit their work into the Creative Writing Competition.

The Creative Writing Competition is a fantastic opportunity for existing and aspiring writers and poets to showcase their work to a wider, international audience: previous entrants have gone on to achieve success and recognition across the world. There are two categories for entry: Poetry and Short Fiction.

Deadline for entering the competition: 31 August 2014.

**Prizes**

* There will be two winners; one Poetry winner and one Short Fiction winner.
* Each winner will receive £500.

**How to Enter**

The Creative Writing Competition has two categories for entry: Poetry and Short Fiction.

Entry is £10 +VAT and this permits the submission of ***two*** works into any ***one*** category.

**Guidelines**

* Fiction entries should be no more than 2,000 words each.
* Poetry entries should be no more than 40 lines each.
* Both Fiction and Poetry entries should be written in English.

www.aestheticamagazine.com

**To Hull and Back**

The competition closes to entries 11.59pm GMT on 31st August 2014. Stories must be no longer than 4,000 (four-thousand) words in length. This is an open competition and there is no set theme, but stories must contain some element of humour. There is a £5 (five pounds GBP) entry fee for 1 (one) entry, an £8 (eight pounds GBP) entry fee for 2 (two) entries and a £10 (ten pounds GBP) entry fee for 3 (three) entries. Entries are to be sent by email to: [chris@christopherfielden.com](mailto:chris@christopherfielden.com).

[www.christopherfielden.com](http://www.christopherfielden.com)

**The High Sheriff's Cheshire Prize for Literature**  
Closing date is 1st September, 2014  
1st prize is £2000  
Entry is free  
1500 words for a short story or 100 lines for a poem.  
Theme is children's literature aimed at seven to 14-year old children  
You must be over 18 to enter and live or have lived, work or have worked, study or have studied in Cheshire (to include Wirral, Warrington and Halton).  
Full details can be found here: [chester.ac.uk/literatureprize/](http://www.chester.ac.uk/literatureprize/)

**Winning Writers Sports Fiction and Essay Contest**  
Closing date: 31st May, 2014.  
Prizes: $1,000 plus five honourable mentions $100 in each category.  
Entry fee: $16.  
For Short Stories and Essays up to 6,000 words.  
email: [adam@winningwriters.com](mailto:adam@winningwriters.com)  
Website: [winningwriters.com/sports](http://www.winningwriters.com/sports)

**The Small Print**

Newsletter submissions to: [twcnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twcnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk)

**Poetry, Prose, News… anything wanted.**

**May ‘13**

**Here Comes the Sun**

The idea that ‘summer is good’ seems obvious: who could possibly argue otherwise? But summer is particularly good for writers.

For a start we get longer days. Days that start, literally, bright and early. Gone is the depression of cold, dark mornings and in its place we have the energy and hope that each new summer day brings: each new flower that blooms in our garden, each new fledgling that comes to eat from our bird table. We are given more time in the summer… we would be fools not to use it.

And with the good weather that comes hand-in-hand with this extra time we have the opportunity to get outside.

As writers we are often informed of the importance of having pen and notebook constantly at our side: this is never more true than in the season of the sun, when unconstrained by cold and rain we can venture out into the world and create.

Now this world might only be as far as your garden, but that’s fine. Even here you are surrounded by nature, and inspiration may come from the sound of the birds or the life and death struggles that are the daily drama of the insect world at your feet… not to mention that annoying cat that seems to think your front lawn is a public lavatory.

You may venture further afield, into public spaces: parks offer all that your garden has and more: the opportunity to observe humanity from a safe distance. If a constant supply of nourishment is required then a couple of hours scribbling your ideas at a coffee shop might be preferable, but if you’re like me you might prefer the local pub’s beer garden on a sunny summer’s afternoon… though, strangely, in this environment productivity seems to drop-off after the first thirty minutes or so.

Still not enough? Then maybe heading further from home could be the answer. Visiting museums or historical sites, whether it’s a ruined collection of stones, or a well preserved Georgian Mansion, is always rewarding. Your aim might well be sightseeing only, or you may have the deliberate objective of finding a stimulating writing environment… either way inspiration may lie just around the corner of the next ruin or the next ornamental hedge.

And why stop there? Picturesque villages abound and then there are walks through the natural landscape that cannot fail to invigorate even without providing you with that ‘great idea’ for your next novel.

And let’s not forget the health benefits all this has after the hours sat stuck in front of your computer. If you’re not planning a day out already, I’ll want to know why.

Locally ‘attractions’ like Coalhouse Fort, Tilbury Fort, Grays’ Beach, or the many quiet churchyards we have could provide just the place for a writers’ retreat. However, short car journeys will take you beyond what Thurrock has to offer and out into a summery world full of writing potential.

Don’t procrastinate: just grab your pen and notebook and go!

****

**A Writers’ Progress**

Two of our number have reached, or are about to reach, print this spring: Danielle Chinnon has turned her hand to journalism and been rewarded with her own column in the Thurrock Gazette, whilst Tina Thompson will have pieces published in a specialist periodical close to her heart. Both writers deserve our unreserved congratulations.

**First Stones**

Hopefully all members of the Thurrock Writers’ Circle have submitted entries to the Thurrock Writers’ Festival Short Story competition. As you are aware there are three categories for judging with the judges to be found in our number: A Twist in the Tale (Danielle Chinnon), 1914 (Irene Mannering), and an open theme category (Stephen Grimshaw).

We all look forward to hearing the results on June 14th.

**Lillian Rose Troy**

“Sometimes let gorgeous tragedy

In sceptered pall come sweeping by

Presenting Thebes, or Pelops’ line,

Or the tale of Troy divine.”

John Milton

It is with great sadness that we inform our members of the passing of one of the founding members of the Thurrock Writers’ Circle.

Lillian Rose Troy passed away peacefully at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital on the 18th March this year. Her funeral was held at the Earlham Crematorium, in Norwich on Monday April 7th.

It would have been nice if we had some of her work to revisit here in the newsletter. If TWC members have something of Lillian’s lying around or have recollections to share we would be proud to include them in next month’s newsletter.

**The Thurrock Writers’ Circle Newsletter October 2013**