

Chichester Copywriter's planning a Writers' Retreat at Cobnor

Katy Lassetter of Chichester Copywriter is organising a Writers' Retreat Weekend over August Bank Holiday for budding wordsmiths and all those interested in writing. This creative writing event, taking place at Cobnor, near Chichester, Friday August 26th - Sunday August 28th, is a writers' retreat with a difference that's sure to get your creative juices flowing.

Cobnor Activities Centre is providing the accommodation and facilities for the Writers' Retreat and as Cobnor is situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty writers will not only have the opportunity to take in the stunning surroundings but they'll also get the chance to get stuck in to some outdoor activities. A powerboat trip, a coastal walk and an informal kayaking lesson are all on the cards for those writers that want to get out from behind their desks and get some inspiration from the Great Outdoors.

The event will kick off with a Pimm's reception, informal networking, inspirational talks from professional writers and a book signing on Friday evening, designed to give local writers, publishers and creatives the opportunity to meet likeminded people. There will also be a Writing and Publishing Panel Talk: *Getting Published: Our Experiences*. This will be an enlightening discussion between award-winning local writers Gabrielle Kimm (*His Last Duchess*, Sphere, 2010 and *The Courtesan's Lover*, Sphere, 2011) and Isabel Ashdown (*Glasshopper*, Myriad Editions, 2009 and *Hurry Up and Wait*, Myriad Editions, 2011) and their editors. While the number of guests on the Writers' Retreat weekend is limited, so that they get the very best writing experience possible, Friday evening's event will be open to the public for just £15 a ticket.

Aspiring writers will have plenty of opportunity to brush up on their penmanship throughout the weekend. As well as plenty of free time to get pen to paper, Gabrielle Kimm is giving a creative writing workshop and Isabel Ashdown is giving a workshop to help writers develop their characters. There will also be talks from local writers, such as Stewart Ferris (*Unusual Character Names for Writers*, e-book, 2010; *How to Publish Your Own Book*, Summersdale, 2008; *How to be a Writer*, Summersdale, 2005; *How to Get Published*, Summersdale 2005) and Melanie Penycate (*Breaking the Arch*, Guildford Poets Press, 1995; *Feeding Hummingbirds*, Oversteps Books, 2009), on the agenda. Boat trips to local points of natural and historical interest, such as East Head and Bosham Church, are planned too (weather permitting!)

An exhibition of art crafted from a variety of reclaimed coastal timber, diamond drilled pebbles and press moulded stoneware fired blue pottery by local artist Jan Guest will be accompanied by Lorrie Whittington's *Sea Dreams: Exhibition of Paintings and Illustrations*, a stunning collection in hues of purple, blue and green. The artwork will be on display throughout the weekend to inspire the writers and will also be on sale so that they can take their inspirations home.

Homemade food, including a BBQ on Saturday night and a cream tea on Sunday; accommodation in fully equipped shoreline log cabins; workshops and activities are all included in the weekend price starting at just £200 per person.

There are a number of writing enthusiasts from all over the UK already booked on the weekend; one writer is so keen to reap the rewards of the Writers' Retreat that she's travelling all the way from Brussels! Why don't you come and join them? See how this beautiful setting will inspire your creativity and develop your writing skills with the help of local writing and publishing professionals.

To buy a weekend ticket or a ticket for the Friday evening event please contact katy@Chichestercopywriter.co.uk or call 01243 533421 for details.