



Writing Places Writer-in-Residence information pack May 2017

Background to the project

Writing Places is a partnership between Literature Works and the National Trust that celebrates the rich literary heritage of the South West. It places Writers-in-Residence at National Trust properties where some of the greatest writers of our literary canon were inspired to write the works that have become their legacy. *Writing Places* is aimed at broadening and encouraging public engagement with creative writing and reading, at the same time bringing these inspirational National Trust places to a wider audience.

In 2017, Literature Works will place Writers-in-Residence in two National Trust houses with a mission to engage with the general public and to run creative writing workshops for emerging writers, inspiring and encouraging new talent. In addition, there will be literary activities within each property for visitors to engage with.

The public will be able to experience *Writing Places* when the properties are open, through literary themed activities and displays. People will also be able to participate in storytelling, reading and workshop events to broaden their awareness of the property's literary heritage.

Aiming to reach audiences interested in literary heritage on an international level, *Writing Places* will have a dedicated website which will include Writer-in-Residence blogs. Audiences will be encouraged to comment on and discuss their experiences by engaging with online projects and activities which look at innovative ways for new audiences to get involved with their literary heritage.

Writer-in-Residence post details 2017

For 2017 we are delighted to announce Writer-in-Residence opportunities as follows:

At Greenway near Brixham in South Devon, the holiday home of famous and much-loved author Agatha Christie and her family. This residency will run for three months during September, October and November 2017.

At Hardy's Cottage near Dorchester in Dorset, an evocative cob and thatch cottage and the birthplace of Thomas Hardy. This residency will run for two months during September and October.

The selected writers will be engaged on a contractor/freelance basis as Writer-in-Residence for the term.

Residency terms

Greenway

The Writer-in-Residence at Greenway will be contracted to be on site and engage with visitors, through workshops or other activity, for a total of 12 days (4 days per month) for the duration of the residency. They are encouraged to spend as much time as they see fit over and above those 12 days, on site developing their own writing and engaging with visitors.



We ask the writer to produce one 2,000-word piece of writing during the residency, on a theme that is left open to them as long as it is inspired by their experience of Greenway. The one stipulation is that the piece of writing should not attempt to 'mimic' in any way the work of Agatha Christie.

The workshops in November should take place ideally on weekdays when Greenway is closed to the public to ensure that we attract a new audience at a time when the house is otherwise quiet.

We would like the writer to include outreach to at least one school during the residency as part of their 12 days. This could be either through school children coming to Greenway or the writer visiting the school. Our aim is that the children's resulting creative work will be exhibited at the house.

The Writer-in-Residence at Greenway will be paid a fixed fee of £3,000 (£1,000 on completion of each month x 3).

Hardy's Cottage

The Writer-in-Residence at Hardy's Cottage will be contracted to occupy a 'Writer's Hut' installed in the grounds. We ask the writer to produce one 2,000-word piece of writing during the residency as a contemporary response to Hardy's work: a modern take on life in rural England. They will be contracted to be on site and engage with visitors, through workshops or other activity, for a total of 8 days (4 days per month) for the duration of the residency. They are encouraged to spend as much time as they see fit over and above those 8 days, on site developing their own writing and engaging with visitors.

National Poetry Day falls within the period on Thursday 28 September and the writer will be invited to produce work which can contribute to celebrating National Poetry Day and which Literature Works, in partnership with the National Trust, can publicise accordingly.

The Writer-in-Residence at Hardy's Cottage will be paid a fixed fee of £2,000 (£1,000 on completion of each month X 2).

Location and facilities

The writers will be expected to take part in activities at the relevant National Trust properties (Greenway and Hardy's Cottage) and will have access to facilities, e.g. photocopying, and refreshment break areas.

Hours of work

The writer will work on a session by session basis and agree the days of work in advance with the *Writing Places* project team.

Fees

There is no relocation package available for this residency. Physical residency is not included. Greenway may be able to offer a short stay in bedsit-type accommodation by separate negotiation with staff at the property.

There is no travel budget available for this residency, but a small budget is available for materials that have been agreed in advance of purchase to deliver talk and events. The role is supported by Literature Works' project manager, by the Property Management team, and potentially by volunteers.

The writer will provide any relevant invoices and will be paid monthly, including any materials expenses, in arrears or in another arrangement agreed with *Writing Places*.



All sums payable are inclusive of VAT and the writer will be responsible for registering for VAT and all other tax purposes

Disclosure & Child Protection

Please note that the writers are required to complete a Standard/Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (formerly CRB check) and provide certification. *Writing Places* will meet the cost of this check on provision.

How to Apply

Please apply in writing on no more than two sheets A4, outlining your publishing history, why you would like to undertake this residency and what impact you feel it would have on your own work and development. Please also summarise your availability, experience, and ability to meet the requirements of the post. You may also include a writing CV.

Closing date for receipt of applications is
5pm on Friday 16th June 2017

email your application to
info@literatureworks.org.uk

Literature Works c/o Plymouth University, Roland Levinsky Building, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL4 8AA

Please note

Candidates selected for interview will be notified on or before 1st July 2017
Group interview days will be held at each of the properties on the following dates:

Hardy's Cottage Monday 10th July
Greenway Wednesday 12th July

Visit www.writingplaces.org for more information