

Watford Writers – our activities explained

We meet every Monday (except for Bank Holidays). Meetings are either on Zoom or in person at the Quakers Meeting Hall or the Oddfellows Hall.

Manuscript Nights

These are held at least once a month to provide feedback on **NEW** pieces of work (books, poems, plays etc). They are particularly helpful for those intending to publish, mount productions or enter competitions. To allow enough time for discussion, please keep the time needed to read your piece to between 5 and 7 minutes (maximum of 1000 words as a rule of thumb).

Open Mic Nights

These are more informal nights for you to showcase new or old material where feedback is not required. Please restrict your reading to less than 7 minutes.

Monthly prize competitions

Except for July and August, monthly competitions are held. These can be prose and/or poetry and there is always a word/line/time limit. The entries must be **NEW** writing. The top three entries (as voted by the group) receive a prize. If you enter the competition, you must also score the other entries. Please always check the rules for each competition as these may vary.

Workshops and guest speakers

We aim to organise three of these events every year with the intention of improving our writing and critiquing skills. The format and activity will vary.

Helen Nicell Award

Once a year we hope to hold a competition for longer pieces of prose (typically 2500 to 3000 words – but please check the rules each time). An external judge is to be appointed to decide on the best three entries and to provide feedback.

Writing Prompts

If none of the above are happening, a writing prompt will be suggested just for fun. Entries are not scored. There may be word/line/time limits depending on the prompt.

Social Events

A Christmas dinner and a summer social are organised every year.

External Events

A number of art, literature and cultural events occur throughout the year in Watford and the surrounding areas. Watford Writers is happy to be represented and to take part.