



### Autumn 2023 Newsletter

Hello again from Kildare Writing centre. Happy September to you all, I'm almost inclined to say Happy New Year, because that's how September and the beginning of Autumn always feels to me. A new beginning. Probably because I've spent most of my life in schools as student and teacher. This is my season of new pencil cases and woolly jumpers. I bought some new jumpers yesterday and the lady at the counter said, 'Getting ready early for winter?' I didn't like to contradict her.

It's a time of routines kicking in again, and a time of joining clubs, classes, and courses, whatever you feel will see you through the darker evenings and colder nights. And maybe one of those things is a writing course. Those of you who have been to the Kildare Writing Centre know how things work here, but for the new subscribers, you can expect small groups (eight max.), lots of reading and writing, laughter, tea, coffee, cake, cosy fires, and by week two friendly familiar faces. (I love the odd bit of alliteration). So that's the aesthetic, but what about the practical nature of the courses here?

I have decided to make all courses four weeks duration, and in that way can fit more in throughout the year. Apart from the signature course on the craft of writing, where the focus for instruction is always on the short story, I have two new courses this year which need a little explanation.

The four-week course on novel writing/short story collection has come about because of requests from former students who have a project in mind and would like the discipline the courses give to their practice. Each week is two hours and during that time you will have an opportunity to discuss the progress of your work, workshop aspects of it, advance your word count during the free write and read appropriate material. I will also introduce an element of instruction each week, based on issues that arise from the group's writing. For instance, if someone was struggling with the management of 'time' in their story, we could look at that. This will be a great opportunity for you to establish a routine around your work, get it up and running and advancing it over the four weeks. At the end of the course, I will facilitate another four-week course which you may like to continue with if you feel you need the support for a while longer, and it won't be repetitive as there is no set syllabus, the nature of this course being to address the needs of the group.

The course for leaving certificate English students, while initially four weeks, will continue throughout the year. This hour-long class each week will focus on a different aspect of the syllabus and the students will have an opportunity to write, read, discuss, and get feedback on their work. As a state examiner of this subject, I know the advice and information I can share with the student will be of great benefit to them. Again, these groups are maxed at eight. Also there will be a drop in option for this course, based on availability each week.

And finally, just to explain the part 1 and part 2 aspects of the four-week course on the short story, you do not have to have done part 1 to do part 2, but if you are beginning on this journey of writing, it might be helpful.

As you will see there is a new booking system which I am hoping will make my very non-admin brain feel lighter and allow me to concentrate on the content of the courses...oh and putting manners on the two new additions to the centre, Keeper and Flossy, the almost eleven-month-old pups!

So, with new pens at the ready, decked out in my new jumper, I look forward to seeing you before the month is out. And as always if this is not for you, but you know someone who might be interested feel free to forward the email to them.

**Autumn Schedule at Kildare Writing Centre.**

**1. 4-week Creative Writing Part 1.**

**Tuesday September 26<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup>. 6.30pm-9.30pm (3 hrs)**

**€165**

All levels

Focus will be on the short story.

Over the course of the four weeks, I will take you through the craft of writing the short story, introduce you to the masters of the form, both classical and contemporary, and afford you the opportunity to write a story each week or work on one or more stories intensely over the four weeks.

Classes are limited to 8.

**The elements of craft covered each week are as follows:**

Week 1: Introduction to the short form and story openings.

Week 2: Characterisation.

Week 3: Dialogue.

Week 4: Setting.

**2. 4-week Creative Writing Part 2.**

**Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup> – November 14<sup>th</sup>**

**€165**

All levels

Focus will be on the short story.

Over the course of the four weeks, I will take you through the craft of writing the short story, introduce you to the masters of the form, both classical and contemporary, and afford you the opportunity to write a story each week or work on one or more stories intensely over the four weeks.

Classes are limited to 8.

**The elements of craft covered each week are as follows:**

Week 1. Point of view.

Week 2. Plot and Theme

Week 3. Language and description.

Week 4. Editing, Rewriting and Revision

**3. 4-week Novel Writing/Short Story Collection.**

**Monday September 25<sup>th</sup>-Monday October 16<sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm (2 hours)**

**€110**

Advanced.

This course is for writers who are embarked on a project but are looking to create a structure around their work. The course is designed to allow you to workshop aspects of your work, discuss elements of craft and assigned reading, and in the writing session, add to your word count. Each week there will be reading and writing assignments appropriate to the work being done by the group.

#### **4. 4-week Leaving Certificate English.**

**Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>-Monday October 19<sup>th</sup> 5pm-6pm (1 hour)**

**€55**

Suitable for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students.

While this is a four-week course initially, it will continue throughout the academic year. The course will cover all aspects of paper 1, the Shakespearian single text and poetry, including the Unseen poem. As a current state examiner of Higher-level LC English with many years' experiences examining and teaching this course, the facilitator's advice and guidance will direct you towards success.

This first course will concentrate on paper 1, as this is the foundation needed to manage the prescribed syllabus.

#### **5. 4-week Leaving Certificate English. Drop-in Option**

**Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>-Monday October 19<sup>th</sup> 5pm-6pm (1 hour)**

**€15**

Suitable for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students.

While this is a four-week course initially, it will continue throughout the academic year. The course will cover all aspects of paper 1, the Shakespearian single text and poetry, including the Unseen poem. As a current state examiner of Higher-level LC English with many years' experiences examining and teaching this course, the facilitator's advice and guidance will direct you towards success.

This first course will concentrate on paper 1, as this is the foundation needed to manage the prescribed syllabus.

For Booking or go to the website and click on the Booking icon. <https://kildarewritingcentre.com/courses-1>

#### **Meet KWC new residents!**

#### **Keeper and Flossy.**

