



PROGRAMME 2023

DATE	ACTIVITY
Jan 9	AGM plus reading out 250 words: 'Reflections'
Jan 23	Workshop: poetry
Feb 6	SUBMISSIONS Comp 1, fiction: a story of up to 2,000 words inspired by a painting or other work of art (please bring picture to illustrate). Judge: Val Lee, Hastings-based comedian and writer of short stories and novels.
Feb 20	Manuscript Evening
Mar 6	New Members' Evening
Mar 20	RESULTS Comp 1, fiction
Apr 3	SUBMISSIONS Comp 2, poetry: cautionary verse (eg 'Matilda told such dreadful lies'). Judge: Anthony Mair, poet and founder of Hastings Stanza.
Apr 17	Workshop: drama, leader Thomas Everchild, Writer and Director
May 15	RESULTS Competition 2, poetry
Jun 5	Workshop: Getting it right - how authors can acknowledge difference in the way they write characters who do not share their own lived experience. Leader: Liam Livings, novelist, writing tutor and ghost writer
Jun 19	SUBMISSION Comp 3, drama: a 3-7 minute Talking Head (as per Alan Bennett). Judge: Pete Talbot of the Rude Mechanicals. Taking its name from Alan Bennetts's series of dramatic monologues, a talking head piece has come to mean a dramatic work told in the first person, where the character is talking directly to the audience (removing the fourth wall). Observational in nature, the Talking Head monologue will usually combine elements of dark humour with personal reflections on everyday life. Your piece should last at least three and no more than seven minutes when performed, and please specify your intentions for performance, e.g., an indoor theatre with a proscenium arch, an indoor theatre with no proscenium (i.e. on a thrust stage or in the round), an outdoor space, television or radio.
Jul 3	Manuscript Evening
Jul 17	RESULTS Comp 3, drama
Jul 31	SUBMISSION Comp 4, non-fiction: 1,500 words on 'My Unpopular Opinion'. Judge: Kathryn Flett, TV Critic, author and star of the BBC's <i>Grumpy Old Women</i> series.
Aug 14	Networking event with local writing groups
Sep 4	RESULTS Comp 4, non-fiction
Sep 18	SUBMISSION Comp 5, Wild Card: a ghost story in up to 2,000 words. Judge: Tina Brown, writer and creator of The Hastings Old Town Ghost Walk.
Oct 2	Manuscript Evening
Oct 16	RESULTS Comp 5, Wild Card
Oct 30	SUBMISSION of entries for Catherine Cookson Cup: a short story of up to 3,000 words, any genre. Judge: Jean Fullerton, historical fiction and romance author whose work includes the Nurse Millie series and the Ration Book series.
Nov 13	Manuscript Evening
Nov 27	Workshop: Getting it Right (writing about violence), led by Dave Baker: Members will be asked to submit, say, 200 words depicting violence for Dave to critique.
Dec 11	END OF YEAR SOCIAL and CATHERINE COOKSON CUP RESULTS

