

Welcome to the *GSV Writers Circle*

I am sure you will get a lot of help, information and fun from your participation in this group. We have a number of published writers in our circle, but most are starting out or are in the throes.

The *Writers Circle* is open only to GSV Members and is part of your member benefits at no additional charge. The group meets at 12.30 pm for an hour on the first Wednesday of each month except in January. We alternate our meetings between topics of interest and reviewing members' submitted work. Our December meeting is a planning session at which we will select topics for the following year. Just come along. There is no need to book or apologise for not being able to come.

Communication between us is by email and we send our writing pieces for discussion to the whole mailing list. Members undertake to respect the privacy of this circulation and not to copy to others outside the group (unless expressly permitted by the author).

Writing pieces are preferably sent as PDF files so everyone can open them (rather than MS docx.) You should use the most recent mailing list from the Convener as the most up-to-date list and do not delete your own name. This maintains the list complete and stops it eroding if others use it as the basis of a 'REPLY ALL'.

The unique feature of the *GSV Writers Circle* is the free advice and critique available for any writing piece that you may like to submit. Don't be nervous! Pieces may be only a few hundred words and in a preliminary form, where you may have questions about structure and approach. But sometimes complete, almost finished chapters are submitted. There is always useful discussion arising from the review. Attending members will usually give you written feedback and/or annotations, as well as their comments at the meeting. This is very useful as the submitter is freed from making notes during the discussion.

It would also be of value if members who had not attended can email any comments they may have to the submitter, with a copy the whole group – after the meeting.

I ask each month for anyone wishing to submit at the next or future meetings. We schedule two reviews per meeting (30 minutes each). Those submitting then circulate their writing piece at least 1 week before the meeting, earlier if the piece is long.

The meetings scheduled for the discussion of a 'writing' topic also form the basis of the 'Ancestor' article, 'Getting it Write', for which the group has responsibility.

If you have 'burning' issues or queries about writing (especially over our down-time between December and February), please feel free to send a query around. A number of us are happy to chip in at any time - if we can be of help or have ideas.

I look forward to meeting you at future meetings.

Shane Allan
Convener – GSV Writers Circle

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