



Full details at www.nawg.co.uk

Starting a Writers' Group

If there is no Writers' Group in your area, there may be a need for one. With a little careful preparation and planning, you can fulfill that need and enjoy the stimulation of meeting other writers.

If you are considering starting a group, the following guidelines may be useful:

- 1 Find out if there are any writing workshops in your area, when they meet, and their particular areas of interest.
- 2 Talk to relevant organisations and individuals in order to judge the potential interest in your group.
- 3 Locate a suitable venue for the workshop. Libraries, arts centres, educational establishments and pubs can all provide comfortable and relatively cheap accommodation.
- 4 Consider an appropriate meeting time and day as this will have a major effect on the writers the group will attract.
- 5 Decide whether the workshop is going to be a discussion group or elect an identifiable leader.
- 6 Decide whether the group should have a specific focus. It is probably best, at this stage, to keep the workshop as broadly based as possible to encourage a good cross fertilisation of ideas.
- 7 Consider the financial implications of setting up a workshop, including the cost of initial publicity and the meeting room charge. Set this expenditure against income from attendance and subscription.
- 8 Having established the time, place and subscription charge, publicise the group via community newsletters, a press release to the local press, posters, library notice boards and specific publications from Arts Council bodies. It is also a good idea to organise an event to launch the group. Invite an established local writer to give a reading and run a workshop.
- 9 Register the group on appropriate mailing lists to keep up to date with what's happening. Also tap into available information services.
- 10 Contact neighbouring groups and explore the possibility of setting up joint sessions, with poetry and prose swaps.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, join us at NAWG!