

Writers- Alive!

MONTHLY NEWS FOR THE NEW AND ESTABLISHED WRITER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Welcome to this first issue of the Writers-Alive newsletter.
- What can we do for YOU?
- Junior Word-smiths Corner
- Members and Subscribers
- 'Get into Print' links

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writers-alive.com is a new website designed to support new and yet to be published writers, as well as hopefully being of interest to the more established writer who is always looking for new ideas. Life—and work—as a writer can be a rather insular life, especially when you work from home with your writing. Many of us, when we start, tend to write as a hobby, holding down 'the day job' at the same time. Initially this is the security — the day job pays the bills whilst our creative ideas can flow unhindered by the nagging thought that we have to bring in some money in order to survive.

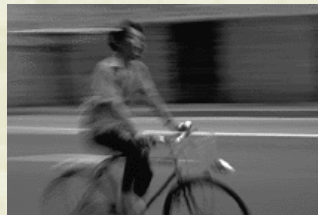
But there comes a point where the writing takes over and our lifestyles become

If you log onto this site regularly for our newsletter, then you are already a member of Writers-alive global community. The newsletter is a free download which is designed to offer advice, support and encouragement to all writers and to create a network where writers can express opinion and link in with other writers around the world.

WELCOME

governed by the ideas that tumble through the computer and onto the page.

It is said that there are two types of 'writer' - those people



who constantly dream of being the next blockbuster sensation—but who never actually get any words onto paper; and those who write purposefully and send things out regularly, thereby slowing

gaining a foothold into this precarious industry — and who never talk about it. We are thereby classified as the 'dreamers or the do-ers'. WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

If you are a Do-er, then welcome. Hopefully you will find some encouragement and ideas within these monthly newsletters and perhaps link in with new friends through our membership section.

If you are a Dreamer—then we are here to help you move from "I always want to be" to "I am a writer"

The only way to BE a writer is to write—about anything and everything. Before you can get a book published you have to establish your writer credibility - GET INTO PRINT!

MEMBER OR SUBSCRIBER?

Within the website you will find a Members Corner, where YOU are encouraged to email in with your thoughts and ideas—requests to other members for research information etc. Most of the website has free access, and there are sections to cover a variety of writing related topics. There is a Junior Members section for budding writ-

ers under the age of 16, and there is a Subscribers section, which has an annual fee.

This will be a modest amount to cover the admin costs of the freelance staff we will ask to critique any material submitted, and to carry out comparative research of publications actively seeking writers to offer material.

See our subscriber section

FAQ - WHY SHOULD WE SUBSCRIBE?

Your first question at this point is Why should we pay to subscribe? The first response is that you don't need to pay if you don't wish to. This website has free access and should be seen as an additional resource for all writers. You can use the information, express your opinions, make contact with like minded wordsmiths and find links to publications and editors who are looking for people like you to pro-

vide them with valuable copy. However, our Subscriber Members section will provide facilities that will be useful to writers who are as yet unpublished, and who are looking for advice on the validity of their work to date. As a subscriber-member you will be able to upload pieces of your work to the subscriber section for constructive criticism by other sub-

scriber-members, and our editorial team. This will help you to build a portfolio of 'critiqued' material, and hopefully encourage you to submit material to publications who will pay you for the privilege of printing YOUR words. Each month the Writers-alive newsletter will include the most impressive piece that has been submitted to the Subscriber-member section in the preceding month.

Caption describing picture or graphic.

What does YOUR bookshelf SAY about YOU? Email and tell us!

BOOKSHELF THUMBPRINTS

Do you realise how much of your character as a writer can be determined just by scanning the titles on your working bookshelf? As writers we all have standard reference books on our shelf that we can thumb through for facts and information to support our writing, and these would be similar in most of our workplaces. But what about the 'quirky' and more individualistic titles that only we would add to our working book lists? From my own desk the following catch the eye -

- Nil Desperandum — Latin phrases / quotes
- How to write while you sleep
- Fowler's 'The Kings English'
- Nostradamus.
- Daily Telegraph—A to Z of everything.
- What are YOURS?

HUNDREDS OF WAYS TO BREAK INTO PRINT

"I want to be a Writer"
We have managed to secure a supply of this useful pocket sized handbook that is very beneficial to all you new recruits to the Writer ranks. It provides a wealth of simple, straightforward hints and

tips on how to get started and how to focus your work towards getting it accepted and into print as painlessly as possible. This book has been specially discounted for our members as it is one of the published titles of one

of our subscriber-members. We make a point of showcasing published material by our subscriber-members, and other titles can be found in our Book-Marque marketplace section of the site.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

"Letters to the Editor"

One of the easier ways of breaking into print at the start of your writing career, is to write letters to the editors of all the publications that you may read during the week. Whilst some people are disparaging about this form of 'getting into print' it can, nevertheless be an easier way of beginning to see your name in print. It is also important to remember that you will not automatically get a publisher for your first blockbuster you have taken ten years to write, if you have not al-

ready established your 'writer' credibility with a few by-lines in other publications. Letters are an excellent way to fine tune your writing, choice of vocabulary, phrasing, concise précis of material etc. Equally, on a word for word basis, they are probably the most cost effective material that you will produce that is paid for, and remember, every letter you get accepted for publication means that the people for whom you should have profound respect, the Editors, have made the professional decision that your work is fit for use in their publication.

As a little word of encouragement, when I first began my writing career, years ago now, my first year was spent writing letters to every magazine that I could find—I earned £2500 (nearly \$5000) in that first year, just from letters and short filler pieces sent out to different magazines and journals. I took my children and my mother to California Disneyland and the research carried out there opened more doors.

Have Mobile—will Travel

In these days of constant travel, and for the writer this is often a way of life when researching, there can often be the fear—'what happens if I am taken ill whilst away from home?'

An innovative new Health monitoring method has recently been launched globally, using our mobile

phones as a data access means for medical and care personnel anywhere in the world, if you are registered with their network.

mobileMEDIC.co.uk offers a free registration service for people to upload their medical history onto a securely monitored international database.

The unique number of your mobile phone is the passnumber to your information. If you are taken ill, the medical site to which you are taken can immediately access your medical history through the database, and ensure that you get the right treatment. For that extra peace of mind — check it out.

**"Keeping
you safe
whenever
you are
mobile"**

go to
**www.mobile
medic.co.uk**

KEEPING FIT FROM THE DESK

A writer's life can be a very sedentary one—we sit behind a desk most of the day, staring into a computer screen, surfing the web for information, answering the telephone, and grabbing a sandwich 'to go'. Days turn into weeks, into months, and

years, and suddenly, we realise that we are a few pounds heavier than we fondly imagined, and that we are not the fit person we thought we were.

At Writers-alive we have linked up with a new website designed to create a 'distance-fitness' program

with on-line advice on nutrition, fitness training, exercise regimes and practical down to earth advice on how to help yourself become a fitter YOU.

**Log into
www.kinetic-
lifestyle.com**

**for regular
updates on
what can give
you're a
healthier out-
look.**



Writers Alive

**MONTHLY NEWS
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ESTABLISHED
WRITER**

E-mail: enquiries@writers-alive.com

Send your letters and comments to the above address. Share your thoughts with other members and become part of the global family of writers that Writers-alive will support.

We help you get into print

Check out our “Get yourself into print” links—these are magazines and journals who are actively encouraging submissions from writers for their pages. **ALWAYS CHECK OUT THE STYLE OF THE PUBLICATION BEFORE SUBMITTING WORK!**

Junior Scribes and Newshounds

This is the section for our Junior wordsmiths who should also feel that this website and Newsletter is equally for them. All writers, whatever their age, have something unique, and it is these aspects of each of us that Writers-alive hopes to unleash onto the global readers marketplace. However, to encourage younger writers, we have a young Editor for this section, and also for the junior section on the website. Stephanie will offer advice—she won her first competition at the age of 10, and has had several pieces published since. She is still in full time education, so share your thoughts with her on this page.

GENRE NOTES – S C I F I

Mars and Martians

With so much press coverage of the recent Mars probes and landings, there has been renewed interest in both scientific freelance writing from the Astronomy perspective, as well as an upsurge in Sci-fi plots involving contemporary concepts of what we may ultimately find on the red planet. Has the concept of “little green men” or the images perceived by HG Wells, been updated, or is there still some mystique to stimulate our imaginations?

Get the Science Right

When writing about space, make sure you have all your astronomy knowledge right up to date— e.g. remember Pluto has been demoted from planet status and Charon has been discovered!

Always have a Plan

Whether you are a new writer or an established one, in order to be cost effective and efficient in our work, it is always sensible to have a working day plan. Many of us work at home, therefore it is essential to be organized, otherwise deadlines get missed, phone calls go unanswered and payments don’t arrive, if we succumb to that extra cup of coffee, donut, or five more minutes watching day time TV (for research ideas of course).

Every evening make a ~TO DO~ list for the next day.

. . . and finally

The Writers-Alive editorial team hope you have enjoyed this first newsletter, and that it has given you some practical food for thought that will encourage you to put that latest piece into the post instead of into the bin. We will appreciate your comments and look forward to receiving your emails. Constructive criticism equally will be accepted with good grace.

Welcome on board.