



Newsletter

3rd November 2009

Attendance:

HWG:

Olive (Cutting) – Chair	Hazel (Newton) - Secretary	Noel (Fletcher)
Stephanie (Tempest-Roe)	Matthew (Rix) Zara (Abbas)	Deborah (Hall)
Peggy (Chaffe)	Alan (Tillman) Liz (Kelly)	Diane Ashmore
Brian (Heale)	Ann (Wingfield) Chris Unwin	Sue (Worthington)

Visitors:

Jackie from Just Printit

Apologies:

Macha (Pumphrey), Margaret (Faulkner), Roger (Pursford), Ruth (Ekblom), John (Williams)

Olive opened the meeting at 7.30 by welcoming all. Members were asked to enter their name on the attendance list that was circulated.

News / Information from Committee and attending members

Hazel:

Congratulations were conveyed to Margaret who will be in holding a book-signing session in Huntingdon Library for her latest book, *The Birthday Present*, a collection of short stories. She will be there on Saturday November 7th, from 10am - 2pm.

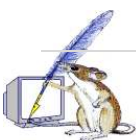
The caretaker suggested that the installation of the barrier (mentioned in last month's Newsletter) is likely to be delayed, as the application by the WI has yet to be considered by the Huntingdon authorities. Up-to-date information will be conveyed to all members of HWG if the work is to be carried out before our next meeting in December.

Competitions

Norwich Writers' Circle invited submissions to their Poetry Competition, closing date 16th February 2010. Prizes of £200, £100 and £50 to be awarded to the winners. Further details on www.norwichwriters.org.uk

Spikethecat sent us details of their Short Story Competitions:

A detective, murder, mystery story
"Someone Has to Die". Closing date: 30th November, 2009



Science fiction

"Adventures in Time and Space". Closing date: 31st December, 2009

A story of espionage and betrayal

"Secrets and Spies". Closing date: 31st January, 2010

Further details on www.spikethecat.co.uk

Fiction Feedback sent details of their critique service. Further details on info@fictionfeedback.co.uk

Olive: Introduced Alan who was presenting a workshop, on the pitfalls, pleasures and pains of writing a Saga.

Using his laptop and projector Alan gave a memorable presentation on the methods that he uses for recoding detail about characters, facts, dates and times, to provided continuity and accuracy throughout a seven volume saga entwined around the central thread of one family.

Alan accepted question throughout the period of his talk which enabled members to clarify details about which they were concerned. These covered various facets of the writing game and details on preparing a manuscript for publishing.

He handed our information sheets on "Story Creation – Scenes and Continuity", and examples of his "Table of Stereotypical Characteristics", "Timeline of Historical Novel", "Index of Characters", "Format Guide" and "Drafting-Editing Cycle".

Alan made it quite clear that the time and costs involved in publishing a saga could rapidly mount up and that finding someone to take on the task of marketing could be difficult.

Olive thanked Alan for the time and effort he had put in to the presentation, and due appreciation was shown by the members.

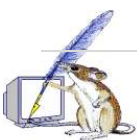
Hazel: Announced that a small prize would be offered as a little incentive at the next meeting (Read and Comment – The Best Present Ever) to the member whose work is judged by the members to be the best of the evening.

All members, especially the newer ones, are encouraged to have a go at producing something to read at the session. At the end of the Read Out, each member will be asked to place their choice of nominee for the prize into a hat and the person with the largest number of votes, wins – *Schimples* !

PS if a draw occurs, it will be sorted at the time.

The next meeting will be held on 1st December. When we will all dive in and have a go at the read and comment (we don't bite – honest). See you all there.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.30 (ish).



PS. If you have difficulty in receiving this by e-mail, please let me know ASAP

