**IPA Writers SIG and IPA Global Writers Forum**

**Planned Zoom Schedule 2023 to 2024**

By popular request and the consent of the group of active members on Zoom, we have decided to re-launch the SIG and Forum with an exciting new approach for this year. We hope as many of you who can, will join us for all or as many of the sessions that may interest you. We are flexible too and will seek to embrace all our members ideas and requests as we can.

Gatherings are every fortnight on the first and third Wednesdays of the month with other sessions by special arrangement.

**We look forward to this exciting development as well as the others now being developed.**

The fortnightly format will be: a short introduction by the session chair, then a 30-minute session covering a selected topic for the week. This will be followed by the regular review of members’ news: rather than the round robin approach of the past, we shall look to the members to raise their hands at the appropriate moment and share their exciting moments of recent writing. If no takers, then the session chair will explore the latest progress of those known to be mid-project and who are not too shy! As if. The session chair then thanks everyone, closes the meeting with any forthcoming events and a reminder of the subject for next Zoom or other gathering.

The Zoom link is sent out by email by the secretary on the Monday of the meeting week.

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| **March 2023** |  |
| **Wednesday 1st March 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘Around the World in 80 Ways’** - **Africa** (each attending member presents a short piece or poem or brings something of writing benefit to the Zoom based on the word, ‘Africa’, maybe a poem, an article, biography of a writer, a writing object, a travel piece, a piece of reportage.)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) Closure. |
| **Wednesday 15th March 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘Developing Delaney’** How a character is developed in a novel series with the author David Tetlow.  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins)  ***Chain Story*** –Our chair David Lewis reads the start of our latest chain story and selects the next ‘volunteer’ to write 200 – 500 words for the next chapter. The title: **‘Wait and See’** Closure. |
| **Weds 15th March.**  **1715hrs – 1730hrs** | Writers Committee follow-on meeting to discuss the planning for the Seminar Day on Saturday 1st April 2023 and other Writers SIG ongoing business matters. |

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| **April 2023** |  |
| **Saturday 1st April 2023**  Either a Zoom meeting or physical meeting in person  10.00am to 2.00pm UK time  (1000hrs – 1400hrs) | **‘Writers Galore!’**  Our fabulous Saturday conferences return for 2023 with a number of brilliant guest speakers and much, much more.  We take a wry look at writing about our younger lives in a session called **‘Growing Up in the 1960s.’** The ‘**Dear Old Bill’s Great Quill Quiz’** slot tests our writing knowledge in honour of our late and great member, Bill Petherick. Eleni Cotton leads us in a **‘Bill Carse Writers Exercise’** and much more yet to be confirmed. Join us!  The writing exercise **‘Word’** is delivered for the 5th April Zoom. |
| **Wednesday 5th April 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer… will this be you?  The ‘**Word’.** An exercise from the writer’s world – circulated at the previous meeting. Each member presents their piece, either a piece of writing, a poem, a previous piece they have written, a book they admire, a picture, an object, anything that is connected to the art and craft of writing. (40 mins)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) Next week’s subject is the letter; **‘A’.** Subsequent letters will be drawn from the hat to keep us on our toes. |
| **Wednesday 12th April 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.00pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1700hrs) | **IPA Writers Special Interest Group**  **Annual General Meeting**  Please try and join us for this important meeting to discuss the future of our great SIG. |
| **Wednesday 19th April 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **Writing Exercise: ‘Letter of the Month’**– Members present a piece of writing based on the previously circulated LETTER of the Month. This week is **‘A’.** (40 minutes)  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer… will this be you?  (200 – 500 words)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins).Reminder of the **Eurovision** subject for the next Zoom and the **Short Story** competition subject for the 17th June. |

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| **May 2023** |  |
| **Wednesday 3rd May 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **Around the World in 80 Ways**. ‘Eurovision’ Next week sees the Eurovision Song Contest hitting our screens – members pick a competing country and present their piece/song/poem/short story about that Country or its competitors.  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) |
| **Wednesday 17th May 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **Short Story Competition** – Instigated by member Martin Papworth on the Writers SIG Facebook Group in September 2022 we continue the idea with the first stories written and presented by selected members.  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer… will this be you?  (200 – 500 words)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) |

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| **June 2023** |  |
| **Wednesday 7th June 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘The Seven Basic Plots’** We look at the work of Christopher Booker on developing plots with a leading Guest Speaker. (40 minutes)  **Short Story Competition:** Our latest story presented by a selected volunteer.  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer… will this be you?  (200 – 500 words)  **Writing exercise: ‘Numerology’ –** *Number of the month* – Writers are asked to research a piece on the **‘Number of the Month’** to be presented at the next meeting.  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) |
| **Wednesday 21st June 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **Writing exercise: ‘Numerology’ –** *Number of the month* – Writers present their piece on the **‘Number of the Month’.**    **Freestyle –**Members present theirown latest piece of writing /story/poetry to the group.  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer… will this be you?  (200 – 500 words)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) |

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| **July 2023** |  |
| **Wednesday 5th July 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘The Old Blue Line’ Police Museums as a writers resource and inspiration** – A discussion with a leading guest speaker from the Police History Society. Police Museums across the UK – Do we have a presence? Could the Writers SIG be involved? Any police articles people have written about or would like to discuss with the PHS.  **‘An Interview with Ken Heap.’** Either Ken in person orThe chair will read his biographical article of his interview with 91-year old IPA member Ken Heap from York who traces his family policing history to the end of the nineteenth century.  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer… will this be you?  (200 – 500 words)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins)    **Writing Exercise: ‘Summer Breeze’** – Short stories/poems introduced by the session chair inviting members to write about summer. Selected pieces to be presented by volunteers on 2nd August. **Next week:** ‘The Americas’. Writing presentations. |
| **Wednesday 19th July 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **Writing exercise: ‘Numerology’ –** *Number of the month* – Writers present their piece on the **‘Number of the Month’.**  **Around the World in 80 Ways –** The Americas (North, Central or South) Members present their pieces of writing.  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer… will this be you?  (200 – 500 words)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) The ‘Word’ is selected for the next meeting’s writing exercise. |
| **August 2023** |  |
| **Wednesday 2nd August 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | The ‘**Word’.** An exercise from the writer’s world – circulated at the previous meeting. Each member presents their piece, either a piece of writing, a poem, a previous piece they have written, a book they admire, a picture, an object, anything that is connected to the art and craft of writing. (40 mins)  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer… will this be you?  (200 – 500 words)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) |
| **Wednesday 16th August 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘Writing Resources and Research’** with a leading Guest Speaker – to be arranged – (40 mins)  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer… will this be you?  (200 – 500 words)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) |

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| **September 2023** |  |
| **Wednesday 6th September 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘Pagan Days and Modern Ways: The Festival’**  This is a time of festival in many cultures and we look at a variety from around the world including harvest festivals from pagan days to modern times including ‘Thanksgiving’ – Members to write a piece/short story/poetry about a festival that have attended, seen or researched.  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) **‘Top of the Pops’** Members are invited to write about some aspect of music, musicians, incidents, or instruments: (bearing in mind not to abuse copyrighted lyrics; to be explored next week). |
| **Wednesday 20th September 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘Top of the Pops’ –** David and Neil present a short workshop piece on the legal pitfalls of writing about music, using even one line of lyrics requires permission. Plus a few more pitfalls.  Members present copyright compliant pieces about music.  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer… will this be you?  (200 – 500 words)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) |
| **Wednesday 20th September 2023**  **1715hrs – 1730hrs** | Writers Committee follow-on meeting to discuss other Writers SIG ongoing business matters. Committee meeting etc ….  Planning for the future |

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| **Monday 2nd to Friday 6th October 2023** | **The Sixth Global Writers Seminar Series at the International Education Centre, Schloss Gimborn, Germany.**  This is a different approach to previous seminars and Global Forum members are encouraged to apply early: the seminar is being more widely advertised this year as an ‘English Grammar Improvement Seminar’ with a strong writing bias led by Wendy Curtis of IBZ Gimborn with David our chair as the English coach. Last year’s seminar on this basis was heavily oversubscribed. If we can fill the places with Forum members, we will all be thrilled! £250 bursaries are available to members by application to the Section UK IPA office at Fox Road and if there is sufficient interest then there is a plan to drive to the venue via Dover as in the past two years which worked very well. |
| **Wednesday 4th October 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘Self-Publishing Platforms’** a look at the experiences of a range of popular platforms that now exist with a leading guest speaker.  (40 minutes)  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s latest chapter read by the writer. Next volunteer, the penultimate chapter before the conclusion by the chair… will this be you?  (200 – 500 words)  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins)  Next week: **‘Tricks, Treats and Spooks on the Beat…’** Bring your stories to life next week in our ‘Halloween Special’ (Dress, make up optional but encouraged!) |
| **Wednesday 18th October 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘Tricks, Treats and Spooks on the Beat…’ Our ‘Halloween Special’** *–* Writers present a spooky piece/poem or even reminiscences about Halloween nights on the beat! (30 minutes)  **‘The Wait and See Mystery!’** The Chain Story’s last chapter read by the writer together with the conclusion by the chair.  *‘*Round Robin’ led by the chair.(20 mins) **‘Good Evening Mr Fawkes…’** writing exercise for next week using this line to start it with. |
| **November 2023** |  |
| **Wednesday 1st November 2023**  Zoom meeting  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘Good evening, Mr Fawkes…’** writers present their pieces of writing or poems starting with this line.  **Book Review**: A member of the group recommends a related book or poem they have read about any aspect of bonfires, the Gunpowder Plot or Guy Fawkes.  **‘Lest We Forget’**– Members are asked *to w*rite a piece, short story or poem about Remembrance Day using family memories, family history, policing the event or a moving tribute of remembrance about the fallen in war. |
| **Wednesday 15th November 2023**  Specially Extended Zoom Meeting.  4.00pm to 5.30pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘Lest We Forget’**– Members present their own pieces, short story or poem about Remembrance Day using family memories, family history, policing the event or a moving tribute of remembrance about the fallen in war.  **‘Mariupol Defender’** If we can, we will show the award-winning film ‘Mariupol Defender’ about a Ukrainian soldier’s fight, injury, capture, exchange and rehabilitation in the siege at the Avostal steelworks at Mariupol. Followed by a discussion on how to approach researching and writing such emotional film scripts. Led by the chair with two Ukrainian speakers. (One hour).  No Round Robin this week. Preparation for the panel debate **‘This house believes that the IPA is Still Completely Relevant and Much Needed in the present world.’** We will be looking for four five-minute speakers using pre-written pieces for and against this motion to be delivered next week at Members Day with your chair for the debate, David ‘Robin Day’ Lewis who will take the vote. Written pieces will be published with the debate outcome. |

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| **December 2023** |  |
| **Wednesday 6th December 2023**  Specially Extended Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.30 p.m.UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘This house believes that the IPA is Still Completely Relevant and Much Needed in the Present World.’**  A traditional style debate arguing for and against the motion using written pieces in commemoration of the**IPA Arthur Troop Members Day** this month. What does the IPA mean to you in 2023? Membership is falling and we are in danger of losing a unique body that has sustained many people across the world for over fifty years. Join us in this vital debate concerning the present and future state of our organisation.  This event will be marketed across the global IPA estate and we are hoping for a big audience so please put your thinking caps on early and consider volunteering as a speaker from the moment you read this! Offers to speak for or against in this traditional debate format please to: The Chair at the Global Writers Forum. If you do not wish to speak yourself but would like to recommend a speaker, whether a member of the group or not then please let the chair know.  The debate will be followed by a short marketing slot on the benefits of being a member of The Global Writers Forum either in support of the motion if it is carried, or to help address it if it is not. |
| **Wednesday 20th December 2023**  Zoom meeting.  4.00pm to 5.15pm UK time  (1600hrs – 1715hrs) | **‘Happy Christmas Wonderful Writers!’–**A Christmas Special with some Santa tales, poems, a Christmas Zoom tipple and a few toasts, Christmas themed stories and favourite Christmas memories of bygone days.  Happy Christmas Cheer; please come along and join us (but bring your own bottle…!) |

Other Topics:

One-day seminars

Murder mystery weekend

Gimborn seminar

UK based Weekend seminar

Links with other IPA/Police Writers groups across the world

Links with non-IPA/non-police writers groups across the world

Writers SIG website development

How to attract new members

Writers Festivals – e.g. Appledore Writers Festival

Writers Courses

Getting published

What is a Writer?

Quizzes – The Bill Petherick Charity Quiz ….. everyone write a few questions and we provide one round each for a charity quiz. A bit of fun and a bit of fundraising (for Sunflowers/Ukraine maybe?).