



Write this time

Speaker – Helen Stockton (www.helenstockton.co.uk)

About Me

I have been a published writer since the age of nine. I write articles for magazines and newspapers; national and local. I also write short stories which are sold as e-books. I am a published poet and I've written a book on teaching creative writing which was published in 2014 as well as a reading guide for children, published in 2017. I am also a wildlife writer and was shortlisted for the BBC Wildlife Magazine Writer of the Year and in a national writing competition, Words for Women.

However, I am probably best known, as the pen behind the paws of my dogs, the late, great, idiosyncratic Border Terrier, Rolo, who wrote two books, 'The Last Rolo' and 'Sit, Stay, Roll Over', and my present Border Terrier, Teddy, who has his own blog and writes a column, 'It's a Dog's Life' for Sussex Living Magazine. Teddy has his own apprentice, our young Border Terrier, Bear.

I teach creative writing and English skills and I mentor other writers. Words are my world!

I am also a married mother of two adult children and enjoy reading, gardening, country walking, yoga and the odd glass of wine with friends.

As a Presenter

I am confident, eloquent and humorous, with a carrying voice and experience of addressing groups and making presentations. I'm also extremely reliable!

My Presentations

Becoming a Writer

My first publication success, as a child, led to a life-long obsession with the written word that has drawn me into the intriguing corners of national and regional magazines, newspapers, and books both main stream and self-published. 'Becoming a Writer' is a light-hearted, fun talk about that process, what inspires me, and my on-going journey into publication and beyond.



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Animal Writing

As a child, my earliest published work was a poem about a fox. I've always been interested in animals, the natural world and writing, and I've been shortlisted twice in national writing competitions with wildlife as the theme, and once for a children's story about a dog. But this is not just a talk about my writing. It includes references to those that have inspired me: Gerald Durrell, Michael Bond, John Keats, Mark Cocker and Helen McDonald, to name just a few. Our relationship with animals and the natural world is complex, and exploring it in writing is challenging but, ultimately, uplifting.

My Literary Dogs!

This is a fun and popular talk about the literary career of my two Border Terriers, which started with, Rolo, arguably the naughtiest dog in the country. Rolo's everyday antics lead to his blog, and some early magazine articles such as 'I should have bought a Guinea Pig'. In a quirk of fate, Rolo was awarded his own magazine column which was quickly followed by his first book 'The Last Rolo', and, building on the success of this, a second, 'Sit, Stay, Roll Over'. Rolo, like all famous authors, has been interviewed on the radio, and in the press, but managed to keep his paws firmly on the ground!

In his old age, Rolo took on an assistant, a rehomed Border Terrier, Teddy, who after Rolo's sad demise at a grand old age, took over his magazine column and has his own blog at www.teddytheborderterrier.blogspot.co.uk. Teddy has recently acquired an apprentice of his own, our first female Broder Terrier, Bear, ensuring the continuation of a proud literary tradition.

Poetry for those who think they can't!

This is an interactive talk on the basics of understanding poetry, from someone who loves it. Some people are put off poetry at school and some are worried about not understanding it. Others are not even sure what a poem is and wonder where the cut-off is between prosaic poetry and poetic prose. This talk will enlighten, and it is fun – honestly!

What I provide

I can bring everything needed for my presentation: a laptop, data projector, screen, and extension lead. All I need is power, a drink and ideally a chocolate biscuit! Wi fi is ideal but not essential. I use a powerpoint with good quality photos, brief extracts from my work where relevant, and sometimes a short video (if I have access to good Wi fi). I will bring copies of my books for sale after my talk.

Cost: £75 inclusive of travel



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Areas: Anywhere in East or West Sussex and West Kent, within an approximate 50 mile, one hour's drive, radius of my home in Heathfield. Further afield will be considered but there is a charge for extra mileage.

Short notice: If I'm free, I'll do it! Contact me and ask!

Contact details: E-mail is my preferred mode and I check them every day:
stocktonwriting@gmail.com

You can also contact me on my mobile 'phone on 07784 538965.