

Flintshire U3A

Autumn – season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.

Winter – now is the season of our discount tents.

But if you're in Flintshire U3A's Writing group, this Autumn's for the time for cerebral overdrive.

First, '**Gladfest**' **Literary Festival** was held at Gladstone's Library in Hawarden on 2 - 4 September.

Several talks, workshops and interesting things to see and read were on offer.

One of our members went to a talk catchily entitled 'Flash Fiction Now (and Then)' given by Dr. Peter Blair of Chester University. Our member enjoys short stories and was keen to find out more. Not disappointed, he came away all fired up.

Basically, it seems that 'flash fiction' is a short short story of, typically, less than 500 words. Some pieces may be only a couple of dozen words. More a word-picture.

The spaces between the words – and the margins - matter too. The term 'meta-story' arose.

Creative reading is needed as well as creative writing!

Next, on 27th October there was a **Creative Writing workshop** for Mid - and North Wales U3As held at New Brighton Community centre.

It was instigated by Hilary Jones as Wales Trustee and a member of Flintshire U3A.

The workshop was presented by Marcia Humphries, the U3A National Adviser for Creative Writing and by Jo Brooks, Convenor of a successful group in South Wales.

To sum the day up it was challenging, exciting and fun.

There were several exercises, including one on pruning. Essential for short, short stories.

We may be biased but it was well hosted and we were well fed – thanks, Marie.

Later this year, we are planning a **song-writing workshop** alongside our Words, Music and Song group.

Our questions.....

Have you wondered which comes first? Music or lyrics?

How to create emotional effect? Major or minor etc.

Where do we get ideas from? Emotions? Surroundings? Events?

How do we translate ideas in prose to poetry and then to lyrics (applied poetry - set to music?)?

The outcome will be performable song about 3 – 4 minutes long, containing three or four verses of, say, four lines each, a chorus and a middle bit.

More questions? Royalties? An agent? Recording contract?

So if you'd like to join in with writing and playing, please watch out for more tempting information.

As you can see, our Writing group is busy and keen to work with other creative, literary groups and individuals.

If you have an idea or would like to be involved, please contact us.