



Writers Inc *at Docklow Manor*

The 2025 Brochure

About Writers Inc

Two-night retreats for writers in rural Herefordshire, offering practical advice, inspiration, encouragement and empathy.

Writers Inc is hosted at the home of Jane Sanderson and Brian Viner, who, as published authors (of 14 books between them), will use their own experience to steer your writing ambitions and help you find your voice.

The image features a solid blue background. A horizontal orange line spans the width of the text. Above and below this line are numerous small, irregular orange splatters and dots, resembling paint or ink. A larger, more concentrated orange splatter is located to the right of the text.

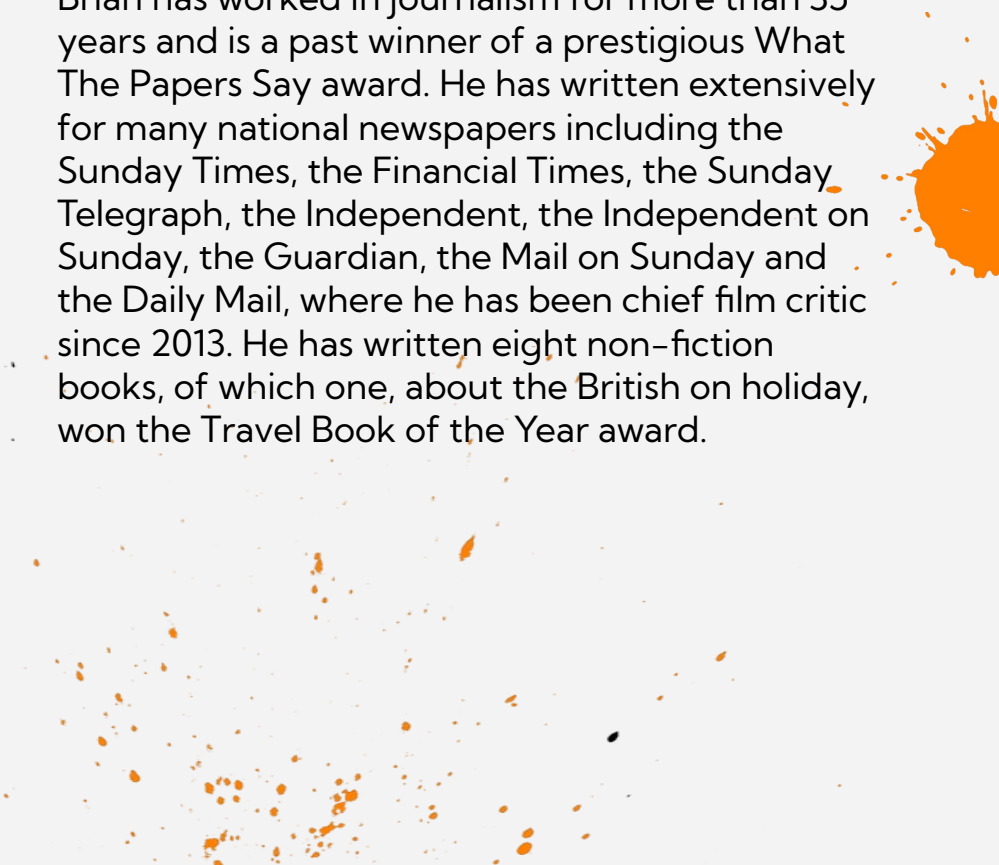
Your Hosts

- Jane -

Jane started her career in print journalism before becoming a producer for BBC Radio 4, working on *The World at One*, *PM* and *Woman's Hour*. She has written six novels, starting with the *Netherwood* trilogy, which was inspired by her own family's coal-mining roots in South Yorkshire. Her acclaimed 2020 novel *Mix Tape* has been translated into seven languages and adapted into a 4-part TV drama. *Waiting For Sunshine*, her most recent novel, was described by the *Daily Mail* as 'superbly written and compellingly original'.

- Brian -

Brian has worked in journalism for more than 35 years and is a past winner of a prestigious *What The Papers Say* award. He has written extensively for many national newspapers including the *Sunday Times*, the *Financial Times*, the *Sunday Telegraph*, the *Independent*, the *Independent on Sunday*, the *Guardian*, the *Mail on Sunday* and the *Daily Mail*, where he has been chief film critic since 2013. He has written eight non-fiction books, of which one, about the British on holiday, won the *Travel Book of the Year* award.

A large, vibrant orange ink splatter is located on the right side of the page, extending from the top right towards the bottom. It consists of a large, irregular orange blob with numerous smaller orange droplets and speckles trailing off to the left and downwards, creating a dynamic, artistic effect.

The Itinerary

The background is a solid blue color. There are several orange splatters of varying sizes scattered across the page, with a higher concentration on the left side. A thin, solid orange horizontal line runs across the middle of the image, passing behind the text.

Day 1: Arrive at Docklow Manor around 4pm, in time for tea and cake. Around our kitchen table we will get to know each other while discussing your writing projects and ambitions.

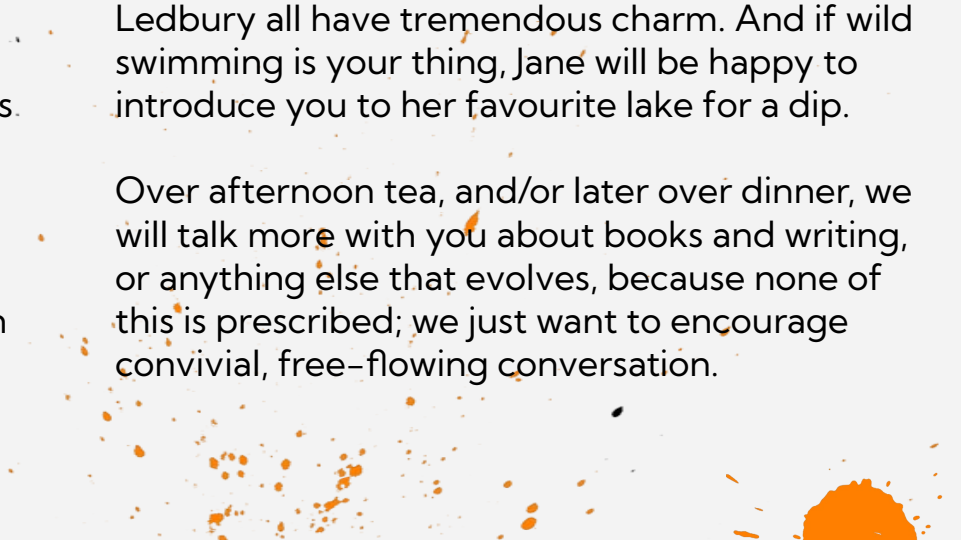
Guests will settle into their rooms, make themselves comfortable, then reconvene for drinks and dinner. Jane is a wonderful cook; we can promise you food for the soul at our writers' gatherings, as well as food for thought.

Day 2: After breakfast, we will tailor the itinerary depending on the particular interests of our guests. That might be Jane hosting a morning session on fiction-writing, offering valuable tips and answering questions on the novel-writing process. For anyone more interested in non-fiction and journalism, Brian can advise on the skills he has picked up over 35 years as an award-winning journalist and author.

Lunch in our kitchen or in fine weather, the Victorian conservatory or garden. In the afternoon, you are welcome to stay at home and write – one of us will be available to chat to, or to offer advice – or you can venture forth to explore this beautiful, unspoilt part of England.

We can take you on one of our favourite walks or leave you to discover the delights of the Marches by yourselves; nearby Leominster, Ludlow and Ledbury all have tremendous charm. And if wild swimming is your thing, Jane will be happy to introduce you to her favourite lake for a dip.

Over afternoon tea, and/or later over dinner, we will talk more with you about books and writing, or anything else that evolves, because none of this is prescribed; we just want to encourage convivial, free-flowing conversation.

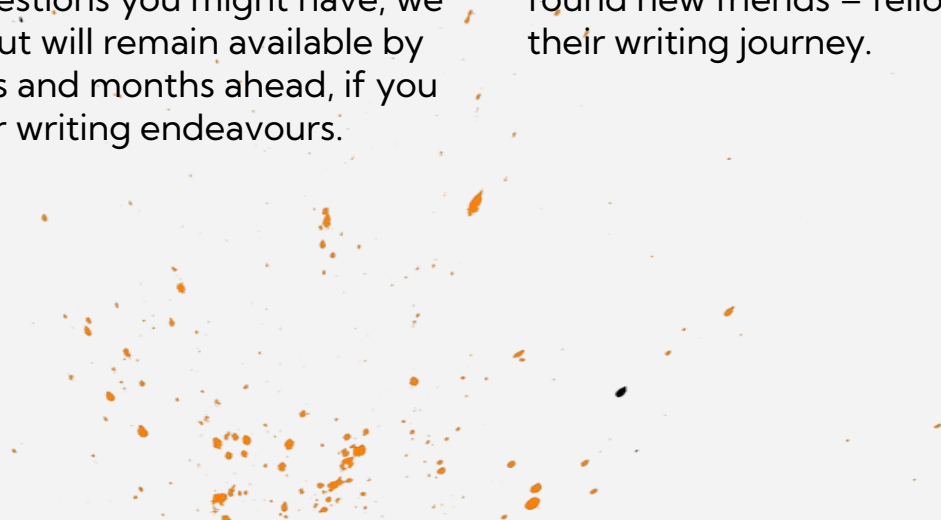
A series of orange paint splatters of varying sizes and densities, concentrated in the bottom right corner and extending slightly upwards and to the left, creating a decorative, artistic touch at the end of the text.

Day 3: After a leisurely breakfast, we will host a joint session on what you might call the sharp end of publishing: how to find a literary agent, the pleasures and pitfalls of the publishing process, how much you might expect to earn, and even the possibilities of selling screen rights to a TV or film production company (as Jane did with *Mix Tape*).

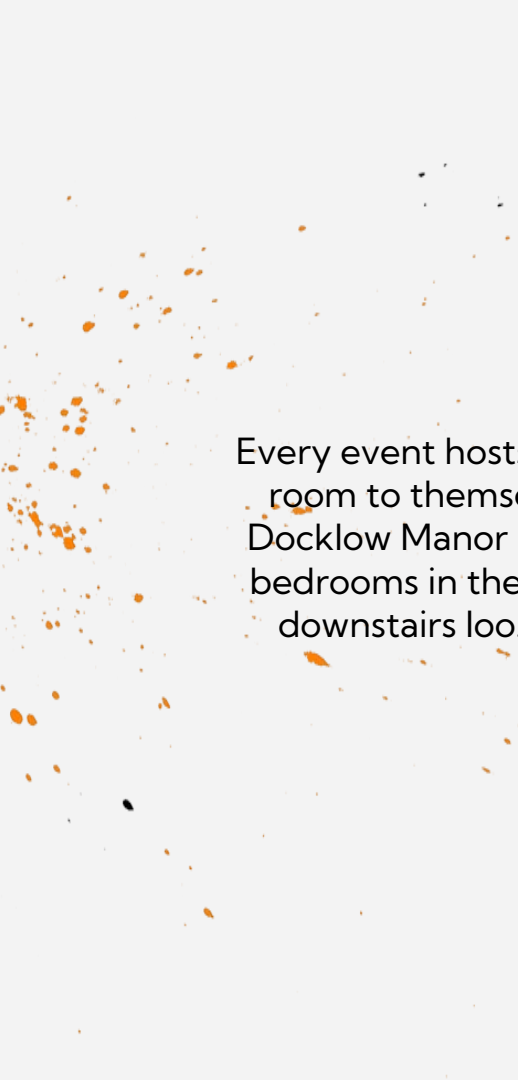
Following a light lunch, over which we will answer any more questions you might have, we will say goodbye – but will remain available by email over the weeks and months ahead, if you need support in your writing endeavours.

What can people expect to take away from the event?

We want people to leave Writers Inc at Docklow Manor with many new insights on how to become better, more confident, writers, and a greater understanding of what it takes not just to start a book, but also to finish one. We hope, too, that our guests will leave feeling they've found new friends – fellow travellers on their writing journey.



The Bedrooms



Every event hosts a maximum of six guests, and each guest will have a beautiful double room to themselves – unless, of course, we have a writing couple who wish to share! Docklow Manor is our family home, and it therefore has a family vibe, and none of the bedrooms in the main house are ensuite, although we do have three bathrooms and a downstairs loo. Woodlands Cottage, and Manor Cottage, do have ensuite facilities.

Elly's Room



A light room, with windows on two walls, a four-poster bed, and a collection of murals painted by our daughter, so you'll sleep under the benign gaze of a parrot, a giraffe and an Indian elephant.

Jacob's Room



The wall-mounted darts board is the teenage legacy of one of our sons, so do feel free to try your hand with the arrows if you're staying in this beautiful room. It has a low, Japanese style bed, and a big bay window looking out over the garden.

The Green Room



The official 'spare' bedroom of Docklow Manor, this calm and elegant bedroom has a reputation for giving our visiting friends and family a wonderful night's sleep – there's a large deep mattress on the 5ft divan, and the Victorian shutters are great at cutting out the light. If you don't appear for breakfast, we'll come and knock!

The Attic Room



A very pretty room with a sloping ceiling which isn't quite in the attic – it's off a half-landing, on the way up the attic stairs. There's a desk and chair, and a Victorian-style metal framed bed, and a sash window that looks out over the rear courtyard area.

Manor Cottage



This cosy room is accessed through double french windows that overlook our rear courtyard area. It's a newly refurbished studio apartment, with its own small kitchen area and wetroom. The table and chairs outside are perfectly placed to catch the morning sun.

Woodlands



This is our holiday cottage, so guests here will benefit from a lovely large kitchen and a living room, as well as the choice of either a double or twin beds. It's ideal for a couple, or two friends who have booked a *Writers Inc* course together. There's an en-suite shower room in the twin bedroom, plus a further large bathroom. It also has its own enclosed garden.



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Writers Inc Package

- Two nights of fully-catered accommodation at Docklow Manor (inclusive of breakfast, lunch, dinner, and drinks)
 - Lots of creative guidance and practical advice
 - Structured writing sessions
- Helpful contact with your hosts beyond the event

Course price: £795 (£200 payable on booking)

Course dates: May 9 - 11th and July 11-13

Enquiries: writersincatdocklow@gmail.com

