

Writers' Residency Week

TIN JUG STUDIO, BIRR, COUNTY OFFALY

July and October 2015

Following a successful pilot in 2014 in which writers Mary Russell, Iggy McGovern and Orflaith Foyle were the inaugural recipients, applications are now sought for the 2015 Writers' Residency in Birr, Co. Offaly.

This residency/retreat is in the Georgian heritage town of Birr. The opportunity is for professional writers who are seeking a short break from daily routines; it is for those who feel the need to re-invigorate themselves into completing current work; and it is also for writers who may simply need inspiration, through a change of place and stimuli.



THE LOCATION

The location is a period guest house with a studio and courtyard garden and your host is Rosalind Fanning. Tin Jug Studio is a local hub for artists' gatherings, workshops and talks. Whilst it is in the heart of a busy rural town during the daytime, stepping in through the front door, beyond the high walls there is a peacefulness of atmosphere. It also has the advantage of being minutes from Birr Castle's tranquil gardens and lovely walks in the countryside.

WHAT IS INCLUDED: The bursary provides for 4 writers to receive one week's accommodation in one of the period rooms of the guest house with breakfast each morning and two evening suppers provided.

LENGTH OF STAY: 6 nights/7 days

DATES: JULY Monday 6th - Sunday 12th July or OCTOBER Monday 5th to Sunday 11th October.

Some flexibility of a day or two either side of these weeks could be accommodated.

FACILITIES: WiFi internet connections throughout, a small writing table in each of the bedrooms and an elegant drawing room with a writing desk. Herbal teas and biscuits are available in the guest area at all times. Writers may prefer to work in the studio or gallery or nearby library.

WHAT OTHER WRITERS HAVE SAID

I wasn't staying in the castle but it felt like it. I had a bedroom that was straight out of 'Pride & Prejudice', there was a roaring fire in the drawing room, and the food was Michelin worthy! **Iggy McGovern**

A great opportunity to write in such evocative and inspirations surroundings... your time was utterly your own at this residency. It actually resembled a retreat. There were no caveats. No demands to 'pay for your supper', a special thank you to Rosalind for making it such a marvellous experience. Her attention and care of the writers was superb.

Orflaith Foyle

THE TOWN & ENVIRONS

Birr is a thriving cultural town with an arts centre and the Historic Science Centre at Birr Castle. During its long history, many of its inhabitants have made their lasting mark nationally and internationally; from science to religion and from motor racing to architecture. There are cycling routes and within short car drives there are magical old castles and ancient monastic sites to be visited, as well as nature reserves, inspirational gentle mountains and boglands. There are a number of excellent cafés, each with their own specialities, as well as a good bistro and restaurants.



GETTING THERE

Birr is in South Offaly, in the heart of Ireland. It is recommended to come by car in order to have the option of exploring the area around Birr. It is on a direct bus route from Dublin by Kearns. The closest train stations are at Tullamore and Roscrea. Transport/travel costs are the writers' own.

WHO MAY APPLY?

The residency bursary is open to professional published writers of any genre such as literary fiction, poetry, playwrights, journalism or travel writing. There are four places available, for newly published or experienced writers. International writers may apply, and as above, their travel costs are their own.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) A short outline of why you would like to – or need to – spend a relaxing and inspiring week of writing in Birr.
- 2) Complete application form (attached)
- 3) Full CV
- 4) Sample copies of some published work.

ASSESSMENTS

Applications will be assessed by three people including a published author and arts manager

FINAL DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS Friday 27 February 2015 at 3pm

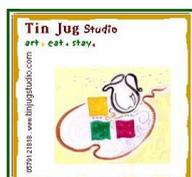
Applications are preferred in hard copy (so as to include samples of published work) to:

Writers Residency Week, Arts Office, Offaly County Council, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Hard copy publications will not be returned without an appropriate SAE

Applications may also be accepted by email, with appropriate links to published work.

Inquires are welcome to arts@offalycoco.ie; info@tinjugstudio.com or 057 9357400



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Application Form

Please use block capitals

NAME	
WRITING GENRE	
PUBLICATIONS	1. 2. 3. 4.
POSTAL ADDRESS	
PHONE NUMBER/S	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
WEBSITE (if applicable)	
PREFERRED TIME (July or October)	
BRIEF BIOGRAPHY	
I declare that the information provided by me is authentic and verifiable	
SIGNATURE	
DATE	