



Writers' Residency Week

TIN JUG STUDIO, BIRR, COUNTY OFFALY

October 2014

Applications are sought for a new Writers' Residency in the Midlands of Ireland. This residency-cum-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. www.tinjugstudio.com

THE LOCATION

The location is a private, period guest house with an arts studio and courtyard garden. 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 includes one week's accommodation in one of the period rooms of the guest house with breakfast and evening communal supper.

LENGTH OF STAY: 6 nights/7 days

OPTIONAL DATES: Between the 3rd and 25th October, 2014

FACILITIES: WiFi internet connections throughout and 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. Or writers may prefer to work in the studio or gallery or nearby library.

THE TOWN & ENVIRONS

Birr is a thriving cultural town with a delightful theatre and 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. However, it is on the Kearns Bus and Bus Éireann routes. The closest train stations are at Tullamore and Roscrea. Transport 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 three places available, for newly published or experienced writers from across the 32 counties.

NOTE:

This pilot residency is being sponsored by Offaly County Council's Arts Office, to help develop the concept further. At or after the finish of the week's retreat, the inaugural writers' in residence will be asked to provide some feedback so that we can continue to develop this concept further.

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) Full CV
- 3) Sample copies of some published work.

ASSESSMENTS

Applications will be assessed by Sinéad O'Reilly, Arts Officer, Rosalind Fanning (artist/studio owner) and a distinguished local author.

FINAL DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS

Closing date is Monday June 30th at 5pm

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

Rosalind Fanning
Saint Brendan Street,
Birr,
County Offaly

Applications may also be accepted by email, with appropriate links to published work and inquiries are welcome to info@tinjugstudio.com

