

Wednesday

Dear People who have chosen to work on writing,

Welcome to the workshop! I hope that you will have walked here inspired by Luke Prodromou's plenary and refreshed by the light workload we had yesterday. Giving you a relatively restful Tuesday was part of the way we planned this conference/course as we reckon you need to still be in an energetic frame of mind and heart on the last day.

First some bits and pieces:

With this letter you will find a reading from the New Scientist on the current battles among the linguists. This is just an interesting (maybe) titbit that has nothing to do with the workshop.

A word about this evening: you have a really hard choice between two brilliantly accomplished story-tellers.

To miss Jim Wingate would be really sad, as he has huge story-telling skills- if he tells the true tales of when he has been called in to get ghosts out of a building (he has done at least two of these "jobs" in Canterbury) you will really be missing something.

To miss Maggie Wyles telling the stories of her West Wales village (she did not learn the language you are reading in till she was 12) would be to miss an experience of a lifetime. She tells with the skill of her drama training but the passion and love of her texts are such that the artistry is hidden. People get so angry when they have missed her that they cause us an admin headache.

Enough of my bits and pieces:

Let me ask you to start writing:

1. Please write me a letter in which you do 3 things:

A: you tell me about yourself as a writer in L1, in English and in other languages.

What sort of texts do you write and have you written?

shopping list
multi-addressee e-mails
menus
love letters
a diary
EFL exercises

B. you tell me about how you see yourself as a writer- what is your belief about yourself in this area?

C. you tell me what sort of things you want to get out of this workshop which may well be connected to the ways in which and the people to whom you have to teach writing.

2. Please take the envelope and write your own name on it.

Then write yourself a one page letter that will be delivered to you tomorrow morning. Write about whatever you want yourself to think about tomorrow at 9.00 am.

One member of the group will be our mailman or woman: they will collect the letters and be responsible for bringing them in tomorrow morning.