

## **Workshop Tutors:**

### **Gill Ryland**

Gill has a degree in Radio, Film and TV from the University of Kent and a Masters degree in Novel Writing from the University of Manchester. She has taught creative writing tutor for the Open University for several years. In 2005, she was commissioned by the Midlands Art Centre (MAC) to be involved in the successful Stories For The Stage project, where she was described as 'one of the Midlands' up and coming writers'. She also writes murder mystery scenarios for teenage and children's parties and facilitates small and large groups in all aspects of personal and team development.

### **Nicholas Corder**

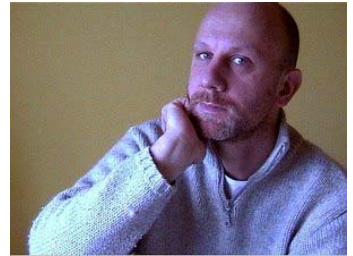
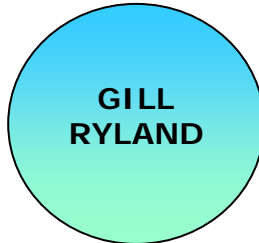
Nicholas Corder is a widely-published author of books, plays and articles and experienced workshop leader. He has written several books on the craft of writing, and his latest book is entitled "Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths in Cumbria". He teaches creative writing for the Open University and several other institutions and is currently writer-in-residence for Stoke-on-Trent City Libraries.

### **Tim Reeves**

Tim is an award winning fiction writer with considerable experience of designing and delivering Creative Writing programmes for adults in Higher Education. He was Arts Council Writer in Residence at HMP Leicester (2000-2002) and editor of a book of prisoners' stories and poems published by Waterside Press. Tim has since taught Creative Writing at the Universities of Warwick and Birmingham. He currently works at Ruskin College Oxford where he co-designed a new degree in Creative Writing and English for adult learners. He is also an Associate Lecturer for the Open University and runs writers' retreats from his home in Shropshire.

# Open University Creative Writing Workshops at Birmingham Libraries

**Are you a Muslim writer wanting to develop your writing? Whether you are new to creative writing, have been writing for a while or are already an experienced writer our short (free!) workshops are just for you!**



These free workshops will give you an insight into how you can:

- Learn different writing techniques
- Learn how to develop characters & plots
- Learn how to structure your writing
- Learn how to develop your ideas and get them down on paper



**Start Writing with Gill Ryland**  
**at Hall Green Library** (1221 Stratford Road, B28 9AD)  
**Sat 19 July and Sat 2 August (10.00am – 3.00pm)**

Is there a story buzzing around your head that you would like to find the time to write? Have you always wanted to write poetry? Do you lack the confidence to know where to start?

In this introductory session Gill will help you to find the confidence to start writing creatively. Through the introduction of some simple techniques and exercises, you will discover ways of getting your thoughts from your head to the page with ease.

The workshops will also look at the elements required for a successful short story (and poem) and you will have time to put your learning into practice with some helpful activities and exercises. We will look briefly at the following narrative, character building, structure and exciting your reader.

The gap between sessions will give you the chance to develop some writing of your own (poems or short stories) and in the second session, we will read and discuss your work in an informal and supportive way. The second session will also look at the editing process in more detail.

**Moving On with Nicholas Corder**  
**at Ward End Library** (Washwood Heath Road, B8 2HF)  
**Thurs 14 August and Thurs 28 August**  
**(11.30am – 4.00pm)**

Have you already done a little writing? Perhaps you're not sure what to do next, but you know you want to take it further. This is your chance to develop your writing in two linked workshops aimed at helping you move nearer your goals. You'll have the opportunity to share your work with like-minded people in a supportive atmosphere, led by an experienced professional writer and tutor. We'll look at both poetry and prose. At the end of Workshop 1, you'll be given a task to complete before Workshop 2, where we will look at how to edit, improve and polish your writing. And we'll have fun doing it.

**Going Further with Tim Reeves  
at the Shakespeare Memorial Room** (Central Library,  
Chamberlain Square, B3 3HQ)  
**Sat 12 July and Sat 26 July  
(10.00pm – 3.00pm)**

The emphasis on these workshops will be on providing a safe, fun and creative environment for developing and sharing creative written work. The workshops will comprise individual and group writing exercises (mainly the former) around specific writing techniques using examples by way of demonstration. Participants will be given opportunities to read work to the group and receive constructive feedback. At the end of the second day or shortly afterwards, participants will receive a brief written report on their writing strengths and possible areas for development.

Topics covered:

- Being creative: finding and developing ideas and cultural contexts.
- Writing exercises for prose writers: finding/developing intriguing characters, telling a story, identifying plot points (in relation to character), points of view of the same incident including aspects and relevance of setting.
- Writing exercises for poets: playing with words: sound patterns and power, working with metaphor, suitability and simplicity, finding a form for the function and hearing voices and expressing voices.

*(Please note: For this session, you will need to submit 1000 words of prose or 30 lines of poetry at least one week before the first session as well as a short (50 word) statement of what you hope to get out of the sessions).*

Places are limited for these free workshops and will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. For further details or to book a place please contact Nikki Bi on 0121 303 2895 or via [nikki.bi@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:nikki.bi@birmingham.gov.uk).

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/muslimwriters](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/muslimwriters)