



By Tina Jackson

Emerald Writing Workshops have two competitions closing on 31 May. Prizes of £50, £15 and £10 will be awarded to the best entries for the first 500 words of a novel and 500 words about anything the writer wants to write about. Send entries by post to **4 Abbott Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 1DF** with the entry fee of five second class stamps.

Website: www.emeraldwritingworkshops.co.uk

With the app and ebook market a growth area - it is estimated that each iPhone user has approximately 65 apps - digital publishing specialists Firsty Group have just launched the Firsty Author Package, which includes ebook conversion of an existing document, customised website, digital rights management software and ecommerce and book sales management. The package costs £395 plus a monthly charge for web hosting.

Website: www.firstyauthors.com

The Bookseller will be launching *We Love This Book*, a new quarterly magazine and website, from June. It will be distributed free of charge via independent bookshops, small chains, libraries and festivals, and will carry features, reviews and a new short story in each edition. It aims to reach a circulation figure of 100,000.

'Always carry a notebook. And I mean always. The short-term memory only retains information for three minutes; unless it is committed to paper you can lose an idea for ever.'

Will Self

Writers whose inspiring stories of how they changed their lives for the better could make a difference to the lives of their readers are sought by Open Leaf Publishing, a new imprint which specialises in self-help books for adults and children.

Open Leaf Publishing is an arm of Open Leaf, a mentoring and life coaching organisation.

'Open Leaf Publishing was set up to work with authors who have real life stories and inspirational works that could motivate their readers,' said Open Leaf founder Hugh Switzman. 'We are looking for writers with inspiring stories based on fact - true-life stories, inspiring and motivating, about people who have changed their lives.'

Recognising that different kinds

of readers respond best to different types of book, Hugh is interested in publishing in print, audio and eventually, ebook format, at varying lengths. He is also very keen to emphasise Open Leaf's interest in publishing for children: 'books that a parent could read to a child, or that a child could read by itself, that would help it to feel confident, help it fulfil its dreams, and to carry on asking questions.'

Open Leaf does not publish fiction or poetry. Writers with forward-thinking ideas relating to self-help topics and motivational stories should send a one-page outline, the first three chapters and a covering letter, introducing yourself and saying why Open Leaf is the right publisher for this particular book.

Open Leaf pay royalties and are actively involved in the promotion and distribution of their titles. Before contacting them, please ensure that your manuscript meets their criteria as they are a niche publishing company. If sending email attachments, these can only be accepted in PDF format.

Details: The Commissioning Editor, Open Leaf Publishing, Innovation Centre, Commerce House, Telford Road, Bicester OX26 4LD; tel: 01869 255781; email: submissions@OL-Publishing.co.uk; website: www.ol-publishing.co.uk



A Shaw thing

With its new TF Evans Award, The Shaw Society is offering £500 to a writer who can write an additional scene, in a similar style to the author, for one of a selection of plays by George Bernard Shaw.

The winning entry will also be given a rehearsed reading.

The competition is free to enter. The closing date is 31 July. Those entering work for the TF Evans Award should write a prequel, sequel or inserted scene for any of the following plays written by Shaw: *Mrs Warren's Profession*, *Candida*, *John Bull's Other Island*, *The Doctor's Dilemma*; *The Apple Cart*. The judges, who include Shaw's biographer Michael Holroyd, the president of the Shaw

Society, will be looking for work that reflect both Shaw's literary style, and his 'wit and wisdom.' Entries should be between 20 and 45 minutes playing time.

The title page of each entry should name the Shaw play it refers to and where the scene should be inserted. The writer's name should appear on the title page or covering email, but not on the manuscript. Only one entry per person may be submitted. Entries must be submitted by email to tfevansaward@shawsociety.org.uk. If sending hard copies, please send three non-returnable copies to Shaw Society TF Evans Award, c/o 22 Selborne Road, London N22 7TL.

Website: www.shawsociety.org.uk

Medical writers Wellcome

The Wellcome Trust is a charitable organisation that supports developments in health and has a range of initiatives including the Wellcome Museum, where art and medical science combine to fascinating effect.

The Wellcome Trust have launched a new competition to find the most exciting unpublished writers in the field of science writing. Run in association with *The Guardian* and *The Observer* newspapers, The Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize 2011 will be awarded for dazzling, original science writing for a general readership, suitable for publication

in either newspaper. Articles should be 800 words in length. The winning articles will be awarded £1,000 and will be published in *The Guardian* or *The Observer*.

There are two categories: professional, funded science writers of post-graduate level and above, and people with a non-professional interest in science (this includes undergraduate students). Submitting entrants must not be professional writers or journalists.

The deadline for entries is 20 May. Submissions must be entered via the website on www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Public-engagement/

Science-Writing-Prize/Submit-an-entry/submit.aspx

The deadline for final manuscript submissions or the annual Wellcome Trust Book Prize, which celebrates medicine in literature, is 30 June. Books must have been published between 1 October 2010 and 30 September 2011, and must be submitted by the publisher. The £25,000 prize is awarded annually to an outstanding work of fiction or non-fiction in which biomedical science is central to its theme. The 2010 winner was *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot.

Website: www.wellcomebookprize.org

Make a writing day for Doris

The Doris Gooderson short story competition, run by Wrekin Writers, invites entries. For the first time in its eleven-year history, the competition is now accepting email entries.

Short stories of up to 1,200 words, in any style and on any theme, may be entered. The first prize is £150; second, £70, and third, £40. Winning stories will be published in a Wrekin Writers anthology.

The deadline is 11 July. There is an entry fee of £3 for a single story, £5 for two stories, £8 for three stories, and £10 for four. An entry form must accompany all entries, and may be downloaded from the website. Fees for email entries should be paid by PayPal to

wrekinwriters@gmail.com. Postal entries should be accompanied by a cheque made payable to Wrekin Writers.

All entries must be on white A4, single-sided and double-spaced. All entries must be original and unpublished. The author's name should not appear on the manuscript. Entries should not be submitted elsewhere until 30 September, when winning writers will be notified. Email entries should be sent to dorisgooderson@gmail.com

Details: The Competition Secretary, 29 Christine Avenue, Wellington, Telford TF1 1DX; website: www.wrekinwriters.co.uk