



Speaker – Helen Stockton (www.helenstockton.co.uk)

About Me:

I have been a published writer since the age of nine. I write articles for magazines and newspapers; national and local. I also write short stories which are sold as e-books. I am a published poet and I've written a book on teaching creative writing which was published in 2014 as well as a reading guide for children, published in 2017. I am also a wildlife writer and was shortlisted for the BBC Wildlife Magazine Writer of the Year and in a national writing competition, Words for Women. However, I am probably best known, as the pen behind the paw of my dog, an aging and idiosyncratic Border Terrier, Rolo, who writes a monthly magazine column and has his own blog. He's also written two books, 'The Last Rolo' and 'Sit, Stay, Roll Over'. I teach creative writing and English skills and I mentor other writers. Words are my world!

I am also a married mother of two adult children and enjoy reading, gardening, country walking and the odd glass of wine with friends.

As a Presenter:

I am confident, eloquent and humorous, with a carrying voice and experience of addressing groups and making presentations. I'm also extremely reliable!

My Presentations:

Becoming a Writer:

My first publication success, as a child, led a life-long obsession with the written word that has led me into the intriguing corners of national and regional magazines and newspapers, and books both main stream and self-published. 'Becoming a Writer' is a light-hearted, fun talk about that process, what inspires me, and my on-going journey into publication and beyond.

Animal Writing:

As a child, my earliest published work was a poem about a fox. I've always been interested in animals, the natural world and writing, and I've been shortlisted twice in national writing

competitions with wildlife as the theme, and once for a children's story about a dog. But this is not just a talk about my writing. It includes references to those that have inspired me: Gerald Durrell, Michael Bond, John Keats, Mark Cocker and Helen McDonald, to name just a few. Our relationship with animals and the natural world is complex, and exploring it in writing is challenging but, ultimately, uplifting.

Rolo, a Literary Dog

This is a fun talk about the literary career of my Border Terrier, Rolo, arguably the naughtiest dog in the country. It traces its beginnings in Rolo's everyday antics which lead to his dog blog, www.rolotheborderterrier.blogspot.com, and some early magazine articles such as 'I should have bought a Guinea Pig'. In a quirk of fate, Rolo was awarded his own magazine column which was quickly followed by his first book 'The Last Rolo' and, building on the success of this, a second, 'Sit, Stay, Roll Over'. Rolo, like all famous authors, has been interviewed on the radio, and in the press, but is managing to keep his paws firmly on the ground!

Teaching Adults

In 2000, I taught my first adult education class, and I've continued teaching adults ever since. This talk charts that journey, from newly qualified teacher to an educational veteran, with some entertaining experiences along the way. It also explains what is involved in setting up classes, the perils and the rewards.

What I provide:

I can bring everything needed for my presentation: a laptop, data projector, screen, and extension lead. All I need is power, a drink and ideally a chocolate biscuit! Wi fi is ideal but not essential. I use a PowerPoint presentation with good quality photos, brief extracts from my work where relevant, and sometimes a short video (if I have access to good Wi fi). I will bring copies of my books for sale after my talk.

Cost: £75 inclusive of travel

Areas: Anywhere in East or West Sussex and West Kent, within an approximate 50-mile, one hour's drive, radius of my home near Heathfield.

Short notice: If there is some flexibility over which presentation is delivered, it can be done at short notice. Contact me and ask!

Contact details: E-mail is my preferred mode and I check them every day: stocktonwriting@gmail.com

You can also contact me on my mobile 'phone on 07784 538965.