

Bourne toWrite...

creative writing
workshops

Advice – who needs it?

by Sue Hitchcock

My advice to all young writers is quite simple don't listen, at least not to me.

Anyway, when do young people listen? They live in a different world, they use different media. I am like a peasant before the invention of the printing press to them. They need to teach me their new skills.

Nevertheless, I do have some advice – remember living is more important than writing. You'd have nothing to write about, if you just sat in front of a piece of paper, a typewriter, or in your case, a laptop. Even if your life seems uneventful to you, it is not the same as anyone else's life. Jane Austen's life was pretty constrained, but she saw and understood so much in her small corner.

Then there's what goes on in your head, in your dreams, your daydreams. I hesitated to mention daydreams, because such ridiculous dreams are propagated in magazines and in film. More people want to be a celebrity than to become a writer. If you want money, of course, being a celebrity IS your path, advertising being the key. But you can't want to be rich if you intend to be a writer.

One thing I do recommend is talking to yourself. Beware of talking aloud in the street though, you might get taken away in a strait jacket. Come to think of it an asylum might be a good place to begin your career.