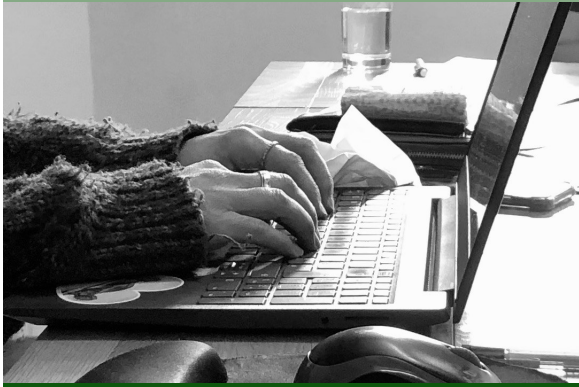


A Place to Write



Tutored and Untutored
Writing Retreats
In the Stunning Dee Valley

2025 Brochure



Writing Retreats at *A Place to Write*

‘A very special experience. We felt looked after AND inspired’
- Amy K, February 2025

A writing retreat at *A Place to Write* is like no other. Aside from enjoying all the privacy and luxury of your own ensuite bedroom — with all the little extras you would expect in a hotel — you are also one of a select group of writers who will be welcomed into the very homely, yet professional space which Nic and Wendy run.

Meals are all home cooked by Wendy to a bespoke menu which is individual to every retreat: taking account of all your dietary requirements, with separate dishes produced when necessary, every meal is designed just for you. And this individual attention doesn't stop there!

With Nic available throughout every retreat, and groups of no more than 9 writers at a time, each guest has the opportunity to engage in individualised goal-setting, discussion and feedback sessions. Tutored retreats offer even more personal support, with extensive one-to-ones, group workshops and individual sessions with guest writer and editor Emily Barroso.

‘The welcome, the people, the catering, the laughter, I cannot recommend this retreat highly enough’
- Helen L, February 2025

Do it *your* way:

At our welcome meeting on the first day we emphasise that this is *your* retreat: you choose what you do, when you do it, how you do it and whether you do it at all! We are just here to help: whether you find goal-setting helpful, or want to avoid it like the plague; whether you enjoy writing in the solitude of your room or feeling the buzz at a group writing table; whether you want to remain focused on writing 24/7 or take a break from time to time and explore the local area of outstanding natural beauty; whether you are a novice writer with little idea of where to start, or a published author with multiple books to your name. At *A Place to Write* we treat every writer the same and that's what helps make the atmosphere on our retreats so special.

- Don't like goal-setting? Give it a miss.
- Fancy taking a break? Join a guided walk or venture out on your own.
- Want to write without being disturbed? Create in the solitude of your own room.
- Keen to socialise? Enjoy cosy post-dinner discussions in our comfy lounge.

What you get at *A Place to Write*:

- A unique home from home retreat
- Your own spacious ensuite room
- A writing desk just for you
- A choice of other places to write and plot
- Freedom to work alone or with others
- A structure to support you (if you want it)
- An inspiring location
- A wonderful atmosphere
- Delicious home cooked food
- Abundant refreshments
- Stunning walks and views
- Unique candlelight readings

PLUS on tutored retreats:

- One-to-one mentoring
- Structured group workshop sessions
- Personalised feedback
- Ongoing support throughout the retreat

Workshop Themes

The workshops on tutored retreats explore aspects of writing that reach across genres: 'exploring structure', 'developing characters', 'writing effective dialogue', 'showing *not* telling', 'building atmospheres', and 'finding your mojo!'

Sample Meals

Whether you have an allergy or an intolerance, are vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian or omnivore, Wendy's menus will cater for *you*. Breakfast, lunch and dinner—and even the biscuits and cakes for refreshment breaks - are all carefully chosen to ensure that everyone can enjoy our hospitality equally.

WhatsApp Community

This year, for the first time, we have launched our *A Place to Write* community for writers who have been on retreat with us. Not only does it provide a tool for communicating with like-minded writers, including those on your own retreat, but it also allows Nic to maintain fortnightly goal-setting sessions for as long as you wish, after you return home. And it's all FREE.



Itinerary

On arrival you will check into your room and have time to settle in, learn about the history of the place and begin your week's writing journey. At an agreed time we will all convene in one of our lounges for a housekeeping meeting and tour of the grounds, before sitting down together at our group dining table to enjoy a hearty welcome meal and learn a little about each other.

The following morning, after a full breakfast, those who want to can convene in our group writing room for a brief goal-setting session to help motivate and focus the mind. On untutored retreats this is followed by a day of free-writing time, punctuated only by refreshment breaks mid-morning and mid-afternoon, and the bell that signals lunch is served!

On tutored retreats the schedule is more structured: following the goal-setting session each day there is a writing workshop focusing on core skills while also providing inspiring prompts and ideas for further development. Later in the day, after some free-writing time, there are opportunities for one-to-ones with Nic and to garner feedback on sample writing. This basic structure applies throughout Tutored retreats but with the added bonus of a personal one-to-one with award-winning writer, editor, tutor and mentor, Emily Barroso.

Whether tutored or untutored, every retreator also benefits from the chance to join a guided walk to the iron-age hill fort on the top of Caer Drewyn (the hill visible across the valley, to the right, through the window in the picture above) and the unique *A Place to Write* candlelight readings that take place every Thursday night. Whether you choose to read or not, and whether or not you indulge in a glass of wine while enjoying the readings, this is always a unique highlight of the week.

'A Place to Write is an almost magical spot for reflection on learning and one's own literary preferences and talents'

- Robert W, December 2024





'Nic and Wendy have created a wonderful place to relax and be creative. A very special experience and I am already thinking about when I can go back.'
- Elspeth H, September 2024

Superior Rooms

These are spacious ensuite rooms with a view across the Dee Valley. They all come with a large writing desk and a full range of toiletries, bathrobes, towels, tea and coffee making facilities, widescreen TV, hairdryer and other little extras.

Standard Rooms (pictured)

These are slightly smaller than the Superior Rooms, but still fairly spacious and fully ensuite. They all come with a writing desk and a full range of toiletries, bathrobes, towels, tea and coffee making facilities, widescreen TV, hairdryer and other little extras. They have windows but not quite such a stunning view.

Attic Rooms

These are genuinely attic rooms with sloped ceilings, low beams and less space than our standard rooms but, again, they are fully ensuite. They have a small writing desk and a full range of toiletries, bathrobes, towels, tea and coffee making facilities, widescreen TV, hairdryer and other little extras.



Prices

TUTORED RETREATS:

SUPERIOR ROOM	£745 incl VAT
STANDARD ROOM	£695 incl VAT
ATTIC ROOM	£645 incl VAT

UNTUTORED AND ACADEMIC RETREATS:

SUPERIOR ROOM	£695 incl VAT
STANDARD ROOM	£645 incl VAT
ATTIC ROOM	£595 incl VAT

CONCESSION RATES FOR STUDENTS, OAPs AND ANYONE IN RECEIPT OF A STATE BENEFIT:

DISCOUNT OF £100 (incl VAT) on the above prices*, subject to proof of entitlement

[* There is only one attic room and one standard room available at concession prices on each retreat. These may be withdrawn from sale for any retreat at our sole discretion, at any time]

'It was a brilliant, stimulating holiday and I will definitely return'
- Jeni G, December 2024

Your Hosts

Nic and Wendy bought the venue for *our retreats*, Bron Y Graig, in June 2022, with a view to developing a world-class retreat centre. Nic is currently completing a PhD at the Shakespeare Institute at the University of Birmingham and Wendy works full time at Bron Y Graig.

Before moving to Corwen, Nic was head of English in a large state secondary school in the south-east, and had also taught and managed at schools across the south of England including the Leys School, Cambridge, Wellington College, Berkshire, and Verulam School in St Albans. Prior to that he ran a theatre company that performed all over the UK, directed a production of *Macbeth* in Manchester Cathedral, and ran specialist masterclasses on Stanislavski and Brecht for secondary schools across England. His journey began in the dark ages when he met Wendy while training to be an actor at Mountview Theatre School in London.

Wendy's career, post-drama school, was much more sensible: having already trained as an intensive care nurse, Wendy moved effortlessly into stage managing West End shows before marrying Nic and starting a family. In more recent years she was a senior manager in the NHS and ran several large care homes across Hertfordshire.

Nic and Wendy look forward to welcoming you to *A Place to Write*!



'A Place to Write is exactly what I needed: a quiet room and uninterrupted time to write in a lovely setting, where everyone felt at home'
- Maria S, February 2025

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A Place to Write

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