**![C:\Users\Sean\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\0X36QOJW\MC900440424[1].wmf]()Writing Club News**

# Connect with other writers on the internet!

One of our members has written a new book about social networking. Social Networking for the Older and Wiser guides readers as they take their first steps exploring social networks.

Whether you're familiar with Facebook, or intrigued by Twitter, Social Networking for the Older and Wiser will show you how to create your profile, how to find others who share your interests, and how to share messages and photos. The book's reassuring guidance helps you to make the most of the opportunities at each social network without compromising your privacy, or your security.

With this book as your guide, you will be able to explore Facebook, Friends Reunited, Twitter, Saga Zone, Eons, Meetup and Ning. The book will also give you the confidence to explore other social networks, including the appendix listing of specialist networks for hobbies such as gardening, crochet and genealogy.

# Help us recreate the Battle of Hastings

**This month, we’ll be visiting Battle, the site of the Battle of Hastings, so that we can seek inspiration from history. English Heritage provides audio tours which you can use as you walk around the battleground and the abbey ruins. As Harry might have said, it’s quite an eyeful!**

**With just your own senses to guide you, and the voices of the past in your ear, what new stories will you think of?**

**To book your place on the tour, talk to Sean.**

# Countdown to the London Book Fair

The London Book Fair takes place 19-21 April, with a programme of paid seminars starting next weekend on subjects including digital transformation, how to get published and writing for screen. Throughout the week, there is a comprehensive programme of events, including frequent sessions on assessing your manuscript, self publishing and book promotion. On Monday there is a session on the Google Books Settlement, which could be of particular interest to authors. These events are included in the entry price.

The authors of the day will be Hilary Mantel (Monday), Andre Brink (Tuesday) and Eoin Colfer (Wednesday). They will take part in Q&A sessions, seminars and book signings.

This year there will be an area dedicated to comic books and graphic novels for the first time. The fair's website says they have "finally emerged as a serious part of the publishing industry", but we're still a long way behind France where graphic novels are a part of the mainstream culture. They do present an interesting opportunity to expand the market, particularly to younger people, at a time when book retailers have been struggling.

Tickets are cheaper if you register in advance, and you'll be able to get into the show more quickly on the day too.

Members of the Society of Authors have a special discount, bringing the price down to £10. Details of how to apply for your ticket can be found in the latest issue of The Author.

# Cameras have clocks too!

If you're out and about taking photos this long weekend, don't forget to change the time on your camera. Last weekend, the clocks went forward, and some devices will have recognised this automatically. The internal clock on your camera probably hasn't updated itself, though.

It's worth keeping an eye on the camera time when you travel abroad too: I have lots of photos taken in America which have a UK timestamp on them. When the PC downloads these pictures, it divides them into folders by day. But midnight in the UK falls in the early evening in the US, so a single photo shoot in one location can end up split across different folders on my PC. That makes it harder to find pictures later on.

I recommend that writers learn to take good photographs. It helps to sell stories if you have some images to go with them, and it is in itself a rewarding creative pursuit. It's also a useful research tool. If you want your pics to be published, though, don't let the camera stamp the time and date in the picture itself. It's in the file metadata, so you don't need it to be on the visible part of the image. You can get some fantastic professional-quality results with affordable digital cameras today, but a picture with a timestamp in the corner will always look like a cheap holiday snap.

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