

NOVEMBER WRITING RETREAT

4 nights, Weds 12 – Sun 16 November, 2025. Bungay, Suffolk.

Arrival from 5pm, leaving by 10am.

What will this retreat involve?

This writing retreat combines fantastic cooking, gentle structure, a beautiful location, and the kind of amenities a writer needs: writing desks and table lamps in each room, a printer and paper for works-in-progress, extension leads for plug sockets, and strong wi-fi.

There is also scope to swim in the river, and to join one optional group session at the riverside sauna next door (included in retreat price).

This writing retreat gives you:

- Time to think, focus & reconnect with your writing project.
- A peaceful space away from everyday pressures.
- The experience of being cared for with all cooking, tidying & washing up handled.
- Support, connection & conversation in a group of six writers
- Quiet & space to work independently
- The chance to meet writers across different disciplines & backgrounds.
- Countryside walks and access to the River Waveney right from the door

This retreat isn't for you if:

- You want to learn about writing or take workshops – this is a self-guided retreat to tackle independent writing projects and work.
- You're seeking structure through group activities.

- You'd like formalised feedback or critique on your writing. There may be informal opportunities to share work, but this will be guided by the needs of the group and isn't the focus of this retreat.
- You're looking for a booze fest. Everyone is welcome to bring & enjoy alcohol but this is not meant to be a boozy retreat or atmosphere. Please be sensitive to the fact that not everybody drinks.

Accommodation: a former mill on the riverside in Bungay, Norfolk. Private double bedrooms, (2 en-suite). The river is 4ft deep, slow-running & suitable for swimming. Here's a [video](#) of the bedrooms.

Transport: The nearest train station is at Diss. It's a 26 min drive to the house. You can pre-book Goldstar taxis (Beccles). Buses to Bungay from Norwich. Bungay is a 30 min walk, or you can pre-book a taxi from Bungay also.

Food: All meals are provided, with breakfast (continental) and lunch served buffet-style. There will be tea & coffee, and fresh fruit and cake for snacks. Dietary needs will be catered for sensitively – no joyless alternatives! BYO alcohol & 0% alternatives.

Home-cooked meals by Henry Anderson Brown aka my partner. Henry is formerly of top restaurants like Quo Vadis, Terroirs, Bar Buvette and now cooks at The Steam Packet in Norwich, winners of Restaurant of the Year at the Norfolk magazine Food & Drink Awards 2024. Henry's style of cooking is honest, joyful and delicious. He works with the seasons, using ingredients that taste their best and are grown with care.

2025 Prices: £900 for doubles, and £1,000 for en-suites. Includes accommodation, meals and one (optional) group sauna session by the river.

Payment

2x payments of £450 (for doubles) ~~or £500 (for en-suites).~~

Your place is confirmed upon receipt of the first payment.

I'll send you a card payment link for simple automated payments.

The final payment is due by Oct 10.

See below for GRANTS information.





Next steps: Want to discuss booking in? Email me at steviemacsmith@gmail.com

I always suggest we have a quick phone call to say hello, for me to answer Qs and for both of us to check that this particular retreat is a great fit for you right now.

Grants: Here's a list of organisations you can apply to for funding (I've been the recipient of two small SoA's Drusilla Harvey Access grants towards attending retreats – I recommend going for it.)

[Society of Authors Access Fund](#)

[Arts Council England – Developing Your Creative Practice](#)

[Fenton Arts Trust](#)

Cancellations:

If you need to drop out of the retreat I offer a part refund only. The nature of retreats make it challenging to find someone to fill a spot with short notice, which means a financial hit for me.

50% refund on cancellations before 12 Sept.

I don't offer any refunds after 12 Sept or if you must leave the retreat while it's underway. This includes travel disruptions or sickness. Please consider taking out travel insurance to cover you in the event that you need to cancel.

I ask you to be mindful of the time and costs involved in finding a replacement; it's usually necessary for me to heavily discount the space in order to fill it.

In the unlikely event I have to cancel the retreat because of illness etc, I'll offer a full refund within 30 days of cancellation. If I can reschedule the retreat I'll offer you the choice to transfer it to the new date, or take the refund.

If the retreat has to be cancelled because of extreme weather or events outside our control, I'll reschedule the retreat. I'll coordinate with you to make sure the new date suits or I'll offer credit to the value of your retreat place towards a future retreat. Please note sadly I can't offer refunds in these circumstances.

Want to discuss booking in? Let's chat. Email me at
steviemacsmith@gmail.com

Want to hear about future retreats? Add your details [here](#) to join my list.