**The course**

Whether you’re a beginner in creative writing or a more advanced writer looking for new ideas and inspiration, this one-day event may be exactly what you need. Designed by two professional writers with long experience of teaching at university level, the programme will address the writer’s art and craft in ways both practical and thought-provoking, involving both writing and the discussion of writing. The programme’s focus will be broad, making it useful to writers of poetry, fiction or creative non-fiction.

The course has been devised with a group of 30 in mind; however, the presence of two tutors means that, apart from a 15-minute period at the beginning of the course and another at the end, the teaching will take place in groups of 15. Each group will have two sessions with each tutor.

**The sessions**

9.30 - 11.00: Session 1.Why do we write?/ Working with memory

11.00 - 11.30: Coffee

11.30 - 1.00: Session 2. Working with the imagination

1.00 - 2.00: Lunch

2.00 - 3.30: Session 3: Voice and vision

3.30 - 4.00: Tea

4.00 - 5.30: Session 4: Inspiration and plain hard work/ Drawing it all together

Session 1. Why do we write?/ Working with memory

There are many reasons for writing. We shall briefly discuss these before breaking into two separate groups for a session on the role of memory in our writing.

Session 2. Working with the imagination

Building on the work carried out in the first session, we shall go on to discuss and (hopefully) experience the operation of the creative imagination.

Session 3: Voice and vision

We shall address matters relating to dialogue, as well as the question of narrative voice, whether in poetry, fiction or creative non-fiction: how do we find the voice or voices appropriate to our vision?

Session 4: Inspiration and plain hard work/ Drawing it all together

We shall discuss the sources of our writing and look at practical means of helping ourselves to get the writing done, before the two groups come together for a brief final discussion.

**The tutors**

Jem Poster is Programme Advisor to Cambridge University’s MSt in Creative Writing and author of a collection of poetry, *Brought to Light* (Bloodaxe, 2001) and two novels, *Courting Shadows* and *Rifling Paradise* (Sceptre, 2002 and 2006). Sarah Burton is Director of Cambridge’s MSt in Creative Writing and author of *Impostors* (Penguin, 2000) and *A Double Life: A Biography of Charles and Mary Lamb* (Penguin 2003).