



## **This Is Our Place: A callout for lead writers**

“Not everything in the forest is lovely and not all nature writing is to the taste of every reader. But more voices need to be heard from ethnic-minority writers and from a wider range of identities and backgrounds.” - Robert Macfarlane, [the New Statesman](#)

Spread the Word, in partnership with the [London Wildlife Trust](#), are running [This Is Our Place](#); a nature writing project celebrating London’s wildlife, nature and the diverse communities of the city through words. **This Is Our Place** exists to reimagine how we live in London and reflect on our individual and collective relationship to nature and place. We want to see nature writing being created and read by a multiplicity of people, reflective of the backgrounds of the citizens of our great city.

Nature writing (poetry, nonfiction or fiction about the natural environment) is a powerful way of connecting people to the natural environment via creative self-reflection, mindfulness, and imagination. It opens up the conversation and supports the exploration key themes such as climate emergency, healing and spirituality.

There is currently a bias towards publishing white, middle-class nature writers. London, as one of the world’s most vibrant and green capital cities (47% green), is the perfect setting to address this imbalance of voices, engage local communities with nature writing and connect people to their local green spaces.

**This Is Our Place** is funded by the [Emergence Foundation](#).

## **This Is Our Place – the offer for Londoners**

**This Is Our Place** is a project that will open up space for Londoners to write about nature. People can get involved by:

- Attending one of 8 free nature writing workshops in June 2020;
- Attending one of 2 free nature writing walks in June 2020;
- Those who have attended a workshop are encouraged to enter the This Is Our Place nature writing competition – where a selection of winning entries will be published in the This Is Our Place anthology and the winners will receive a year's membership of the London Wildlife Trust;
- Come along to the launch of the anthology in October 2020;
- Read and enjoy the anthology in October 2020 (available to buy and in many nature / community / library locations across London).

## **Writers-in-residence – the brief**

We are currently looking for four writers-in-residence for the project. Writers can be poets / fiction or creative non-fiction writers. Each writer will be given a residency in a London Wildlife Trust location.

Each writer is asked to deliver:

1. **Two nature writing workshops** of 2 hours in length for up to 20 adult participants in June in one of these locations on the specified dates and times. (Please note that there will be two different writers in residence for the Centre for Wildlife Gardening in Peckham workshops.):

### **a. Centre for Wildlife Gardening - Peckham**

Sunday 7 June 2.00 – 4pm and Sunday 14 June 2.00 – 4pm

### **b. Woodberry Wetlands – Stoke Newington**

Saturday 6 June 1pm – 3pm and Saturday 13 June 1pm – 3pm

### **c. Centre for Wildlife Gardening – Peckham**

Thursday 18 June 11am – 1pm and Wednesday 24 June 11am - 1pm

### **d. Walthamstow Wetlands**

Friday 19 June 2pm - 4pm and Saturday 27 June 10am - 12pm

2. **Co-running** one of two **nature writing walks** at one of these locations at the specified date and time:

- a. **Walthamstow Wetlands**

- Sunday 21 June 10am – 12pm

- b. **Woodberry Wetlands – Stoke Newington**

- Sunday 28 June 10am – 12pm

3. **Judging** the This Is Our Place nature writing competition;
4. **Writing a new piece** of no more than 1500 words for inclusion in the project anthology inspired by spending time in your London Wildlife Trust residency location;
5. **Co-hosting and reading** at the project **celebration event anthology launch** in October at **Camley Street Natural Park - Kings Cross** on Sunday 11 October 2- 4pm.

All venues and locations are accessible.

There is a fee of £2,400 for this work. This fee is inclusive of VAT, preparation and travel costs. We believe this is around seven days work in total.

## **Skills and experience**

We are looking for the lead writers to have the following skills and experience:

- Extensive experience of leading writing workshops with different communities;
- A publishing track record (you may or may not have published a full-length work, but we would like you to have been published in a variety of journals / magazines / anthologies);
- Able to produce creative work to deadlines;
- A good working knowledge of contemporary nature writing, including nature writing by writers from underrepresented backgrounds;
- A demonstrable personal and artistic interest in nature;

- Is passionate about opening up space and access to new and diverse voices in nature writing and shares the values and philosophy of **This is Our Place**.

We welcome applications from writers who are from backgrounds underrepresented in nature writing, for example: people from BAME backgrounds, the LGBTQ+ community, disabled people, refugees and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

## **To apply / for more information**

If you would like an informal discussion about the role, please contact Laura Kenwright – [laura@spreadtheword.org.uk](mailto:laura@spreadtheword.org.uk) / 020 8692 0231 ext 249

Please send your CV including the name, phone number, address, and email address for two relevant referees (we will only contact your referees if you are successful in being offered the role) and a supporting statement of no more than 2 sides of A4 telling us why you are the right person for this role. If you would find it easier to apply via audio or video file, we welcome that too. Please make a note in your statement of which of the workshops and walks you might be able to facilitate according to your current availability– ie ‘I am currently available to run 1a / 1b workshop sets and 2a and 2b).’ Please send your applications to Laura Kenwright, Projects and Communications Manager at: [laura@spreadtheword.org.uk](mailto:laura@spreadtheword.org.uk)

Deadline for applications: **Wednesday 18 March, 10am**

*Please note that late applications will not be considered.*

Informal interviews (in person or on Skype) will be held on: **Thursday 26 March 2020**