

SLOUGH OBSERVER

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Dawn of a new age for writers

LEAVING school with no qualifications at the age of 15 has done little to restrict Richard Hill's love of writing – he has just pioneered the launch of a contemporary new writers' group for Adult Learners' Week, which ended today (Friday).

Eight years ago, the 49-year-old Langley resident had never written anything for publication but has since been published in over 20 UK leisure and lifestyle magazines and is hoping to share his skills with aspiring writers in Slough.

The launch of the Developing Amateur Writers' Network (Dawn) is aimed at anyone who wants to develop their writing skills for pleasure or publication.

Last run in 1999, Dawn has been considerably enhanced with the inclusion of a website and an interactive online facility – www.dawnonline.org.uk

This will enable those with access to the internet to access resources for journalists, writers, documentary makers and scriptwriters and will also enable anyone who cannot attend practical sessions to participate.

Mr Hill, who has also worked for Carlton Television, Granada Television and the BBC, said: "I left school without qualifications. I don't know my adverbs

Report by Paul Dent-Jones

from my adjectives, but I've learned that the most important aspect of writing is not necessarily to write about what you know, but to turn it around and to know about what you write.

"That along with knowing the type of audience you want to write for is, in my opinion, far more important than academic achievement.

"I firmly believe that everyone has the capability to create work that people either want to read, listen to, or watch. Nothing should be a barrier to creative writing, not even challenges such as disability or dyslexia, for example, challenges that conven-

tionally have been seen as a barrier to working in the media.

He added: "I've re-invented Dawn to enable people to work towards their aims, ambitions and aspirations, and tried to do it in an innovative, informative and interesting way."

The writers' group will enable people, regardless of experience, to develop their writing skills and work towards getting their work into print. Through weekly workshops people will learn all aspects of getting their work published. For more information call Richard on 01753 582 803 or 07910 540 111 or visit the website.

■ FOR younger would-be writers, Stories from the Web sessions at Slough library give children between the ages of eight and 14 a chance to see their stories and poems published on a website and read by children from all over the world.

There is also an opportunity for children to illustrate their work at the sessions.

The sessions take place every Saturday between June 11 and July 16 from 11am to noon each time. Places are limited, so those wishing to attend should call 01753 535166 or visit the library to book a place as soon as possible.



■ **Richard Hill.**