



Application for Membership

The Guild of Food Writers is the professional association of food writers and broadcasters in the United Kingdom. Established in 1984, it now has over 360 authors, columnists, freelance journalists and broadcasters amongst its members.

Aims and objectives

The objectives of the Guild as stated in its constitution are as follows:

- ♦ to bring together professional food writers;
- ♦ to print and issue an annual list of members;
- ♦ to extend the range of members' knowledge and experience;
- ♦ to encourage the development of new writers by every means including competitions and awards; and
- ♦ to contribute to the growth of public interest in, and knowledge of, the subject of food and to campaign for improvements in the quality of food.

The Guild is a self-supporting body that offers professional support and guidance to its members. Its busy calendar includes an annual lecture dinner and AGM, annual awards, monthly workshops and occasional professional and social events. The Guild also publishes a regular newsletter and a comprehensive and detailed annual directory of members. In the public forum the Guild campaigns with authority for improvements in the awareness and quality of food in every sector of society.

Membership criteria

Membership is open to those who, for payment, under their own or a pen name, write or broadcast on food for consumer, trade, professional or academic publications or organisation, and whose work is regularly published or transmitted in the United Kingdom. Prospective members should have at least one of the following:

- ♦ one substantial food or cookery book already published by (but not limited to) an established publisher;
- ♦ the equivalent in food or cookery work e.g. editorship/cookery series/food column etc;
- ♦ have been in regular employment over a six month period writing or broadcasting about food for a recognised professional publication or organisation.

Applications are discouraged from those whose work is entirely or predominantly on behalf of a client or clients who pay the applicant a fee for promoting a specific product or service.

Subscription for membership is currently £85 per year payable on joining or on 1 January of each year.

Those joining after 30 September pay no further subscription for the following year.

Members who have not paid their subscription by the last day of February of the current year shall no longer be deemed to be members and their name will not be printed in the Directory.

Directory

A directory of members is printed each year. A shorter version of the directory is also included in the members section of the website (www.gfw.co.uk). Full contact details as given on this form are included in the print version, and email addresses only are published on the website unless the administrator is specifically instructed otherwise. Members have the opportunity each year to amend their entry.

Ethical guidelines

Members of the Guild of Food Writers have a duty at all times:

- ♦ to strive to achieve the highest professional standards in their work, and to be polite, fair and honest in all dealings with colleagues and clients;
- ♦ to refrain from any behaviour, which would discredit the Guild or any member thereof;
- ♦ to respect the implications of copyright infringement and plagiarism*, and not knowingly use for financial or professional advantage any recipe or other intellectual property belonging to another without appropriate acknowledgement;
- ♦ to be especially aware of the detailed ethics of recipe acknowledgement*, regardless of whether publishing, demonstrating or teaching, and to make clear to editors that such acknowledgement is mandatory;
- ♦ to endeavour to ensure that any recipe published under their name has been thoroughly tested, and, within reason, will work as written;

- ♦ neither to publish, nor knowingly to permit to be published on their behalf, any advertising or promotional material which contains false or misleading statements;
 - ♦ to deliver work on time, or provide fair warning of unavoidable delay, recognising that if a deadline is missed, it is not only their work that may be affected, but also the work and schedules of others involved;
 - ♦ to be familiar with fundamental food safety regulations, and to adhere to them if involved in demonstrating, teaching and catering.
- * See the Guild of Food Writers' paper on Plagiarism, available from the Administrator or on the website at www.gfw.co.uk

Fairbridge Campaign

Since 1999, the Guild has become actively involved with Fairbridge, a charity well known for its work with disadvantaged 14–25 year olds. As well as contributing cookery books and kitchen equipment, the Guild has conducted regular cookery classes at Fairbridge centres nationwide. The classes have not only brought cookery skills to socially deprived young people, but have also done much to raise literacy, budgeting and teamwork skills, and to raise self esteem.

For this invaluable work, the Guild won the Best Educator Award at the 2001 BBC Radio 4 Food Programme awards.

How to apply

1. Ask an existing member to propose you and another to second you. If you do not know any Guild members to ask, enclose a letter explaining this to the Membership Secretary asking him or her to consider your application.
2. Fill in the application form.
3. Return the form with recent samples of your work (see overleaf)

and a cheque for £85 made payable to the Guild of Food Writers. If your application is not accepted your cheque will be returned to you promptly.

Applications are considered at monthly committee meetings. In the event of an application for membership being rejected the Committee will explain its reasons and may suggest that the applicant re-apply at a later date.

Name:

Pen name (if different):

Address:

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Telephone: (home)

..... (work)

..... (mobile)

Fax: (home)

..... (work)

Email:

Proposer:

Seconder:

Reasons for wishing to join the Guild:

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Please list publications to which you are currently contributing or work in which you are currently engaged:

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Please give a brief resumé of your career (e.g. foodwriting and/or broadcasting)

to date:

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Please list any specialist skills or interests that you may have:

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I enclose the three following samples of my published/broadcast work and/or

a copy of my most recently published book:

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I am aware of the aims of the GFW and support them.

I have read the Ethical Guidelines and agree to abide by them

Signed:

Please send the completed form to Jonathan Woods, Administrator, The Guild of Food Writers, 255 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JQ enclosing:

1. Signed form
2. Samples of work
3. Cheque for £85 payable to the Guild of Food Writers
4. Proposer's statements of support (unless sent separately to the Administrator).