

MENTORING WRITERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 MARCH 2021

POETRY

**MEET THE POET
OF THE DAY**

ARTHUR COLE

**WRITING
KNOW
HOW**

**WRITE
WITHOUT
FEAR.**

**EDIT
WITHOUT
MERCY.**

MENTORING WRITERS

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS MONTH

World-wide things haven't really improved that much although we've seen the continued roll out of the Covid Vaccine injections throughout the UK.

Mentoring Writers saw the launch of their first In Conversation With... Interview with award-winning author Paula Sheridan who is also the CEO of the Page Turners Awards.

We have uploaded the Interview onto our YouTube Channel and our website and it is slowly being viewed. Our next In Conversation With... Interview will be with trained musician, photographer, writer, poet and mentor Lis McDermott and will be launched at the beginning of March in Video and Podcast formats.

Talking of Podcasts, we are pleased to see the Mentoring Writers Resource Box podcast website is doing really well with the number of supporters and unique downloads steadily increasing. We are getting the word of writing out there.

We have also increased our mentees, having interviewed and taken on board two new ladies this last month. There have been enquiries from Africa, New Zealand and of course close to home as well.

We are also delighted to announce the launch of the Mentoring Writers new short story book titled *The Mystical Treehouse & Other Fun Stories*. This book contains those stories chosen by the independent judges who they felt were worthy winners for the Mentoring Writers Summer 2020 Short Story Competition. Our youngest entrant in the book is only 11 years old.

More details about the book, the podcasts, interviews and the new MW 2021 Writing Competition can be found inside the magazine.

Ann Brady



IN CONVERSATION WITH

LIS McDERMOTT



Lis is a trained Musician, musical educator, professional photographer, writer, poet and mentor. Lis joined me to become our latest In Conversation With... Interviewee and what fun we had recording it.

There was lots of laughter and surprises for me as Lis opened up to tell all about her past and future ambitions, including the dream job she had desired as a youngster. You will laugh as you listen to her telling us all about it.

Apart from discussing her writing and poetry Lis also explains all about the small poetry group she runs called Lis's Poetry Place. She explains why she started the group, what it involves and where/when they meet. As a member myself it is certainly worth joining no matter what level your poetry writing is at.

Details can be found at:

Email: lismcdermott1@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/lismcdermottaauthor

Instagram: instagram.com/lismcdermott



Lis's Words
on YouTube



YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Check out the Mentoring Writers Resource Box YouTube Channel for the latest updates:

[In Conversation With... Lis McDermott](#)

[Mentoring Writers Resource Box](#)



MEET THE POET

ARTHUR COLE

**A MAN WHO CAN WRITE
WORDS THAT TELL A STORY**



It doesn't matter what age you are when you come to writing; or when you become a poet. And Arthur Cole, I know, will be the first to admit that, as he has only become a published poet in the last few years.

Born in Caerau, Arthur's father and other relatives were miners at the two main collieries. However, going down a different route, it was in 1967 that Arthur joined the Glamorgan Constabulary. He later went on to join the South Wales Constabulary. By 1973 he was a Detective Constable, and for 27 years, was involved in the investigation of many major crimes from murder to anti-terrorism across Wales and beyond.

After retiring, Arthur became a gardener, but the writer was calling him and taking up the pen he began putting words down on paper, or perhaps on the computer!

Over the last few years he has written some extraordinary poems, and working with co-writer Nigel Williams has produced a string of crime thrillers. However, poetry is we believe, his first love.

With his poetry covering a wide variety of subject matter, he appeals to people across the world. Even ex-cons!

Find his work on Amazon, and at all good book-shops.

POEM OF THE MONTH

I wrote this poem especially for my friend Ann Brady because she is English (sorry Yorkshire) and her husband Del is Welsh and a passionate rugby supporter. This is what happened during the 2020 England v Wales game. Ann couldn't understand why Del was making such a fuss? Arthur Cole.

SHE'S ENGLISH YOU SEE!

Today was like hell, I was tearing at my hair,
when half time came, I sighed with despair.
We weren't in the game, being totally outplayed,
whilst my Mrs was gloating, and shouting hooray.
She's English you see, I made a grave mistake,
I fell for her charm, now the mickey she takes.
I watched in hope, "Can you please tell me why?"
beating England at Twickers, was just pie in the sky.
I screamed at the telly, screaming, losing my mind,
Eddie smirked in the stand, whilst robbing us blind.
Our boys today, they put me through the ringer,
I kept chopping at the ref, a bit like Dan Biggar.
Our anthem we sang, with desire and passion,
then George did his business, slaying our dragons.
My nerves are in bits, I can't take any more,
them Jocks are up next, those we cannot ignore.
We've lost three on the trot, this I cannot abare,
my Mrs is gloating, saying "We've lost all our flair"
By the way that Kiwi ref, I reckon he was paid,
our Nigel today, would have put him in the shade.

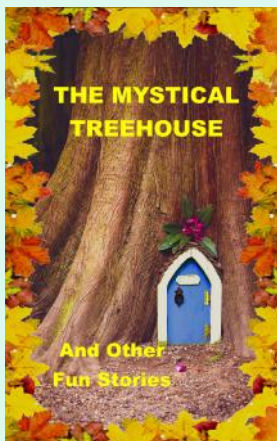
Arthur Cole. 2020. All Copyright Reserved (418)





ON THE BOOKSHELF

The Mystical Treehouse & Other Fun Stories



Mentoring Writers is delighted to have launched this book which is a compilation of stories chosen by the judges of the Mentoring Writers Summer 2020 Writing Competition. The stories are a mix of adventure, mystery, animal, and other interesting things.

Available in print and ebook formats from Amazon, all good bookshops and from AnnBradyBooks

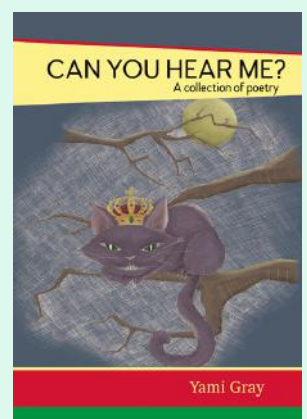
Price: £4.99 print & £1.99 ebook

CAN YOU HEAR ME? (Illustrated)

A selection of poems from a young British/Australian poet. These poems were written by Yami at an early age and are quite dark for so young a writer. Many of the poems are accompanied by sketches drawn by Yami.

Available in print and ebook formats from Amazon, all good bookshops and from AnnBradyBooks

Price: £8.99 print & £2.00 ebook



AnnBradyBooks





“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.” ~ Maya Angelou

“KNOW HOW”

ANSWERING THOSE WRITING QUESTIONS?

Today we look at Setting those Publishing Goals

A Road Map to Success

Hooray, you are close to completing writing your first book. That's the good news, as you are already ahead of 99% of the population because you are actually doing something about it. Well done! You are closer to accomplishing your dream goal? The dream goal of publishing for your book? You want to be a success.

Now you are asking me why do I need to articulate my publishing goals? Simply put unless you do how do you know you are doing the best for your book.

There is so much material on the internet about how to set and achieve goals. Do you know why? Because it's still something that many people struggle with. According to a study by the Harvard Business School, 84% of people never set goals, 13% of people set goals but never write them down and only a measly 3% of people work to achieve their goals.

I don't know about you, but I want to be in that 3%. I want to be one of the people out there smashing it and celebrating success. Next you are wondering how to start setting your publishing goals!

While it may feel like an overwhelming task, setting goals is actually pretty easy and can ultimately be a rewarding process. It's amazing how good it feels to create a shiny bright destination for you to move towards.

The best way to start is to ask yourself some questions in order for you to create a vision. Let's get going.

Why are you at this point? And what's prompted you to create a children's book?

Think forward to six months after publication and visualise your ideal day as it involves your book. What are you doing? What is the book doing? Where is it on sale and what's your role? It's important to not restrict yourself by trying to be realistic here. I want you to dream big and then you can plan how you get there.

Is there something you are particularly excited about doing during the publication process?

What resources do you have available to you? Note down your skills, your access to skills, a budget and time level available

What challenges do you have? What life challenges do you need to balance against publishing your book. This could be things like family responsibilities, a full-time job, lack of support from those close to you, finances, etc.

Having done this now is the time to set your publishing goals.

Having written all the information down, you can set yourselves some goals using the S M A R T principles. That is the SMART publishing goals:

Start with the letter S Specific

Be specific by working out what exactly do you want to do?

M Measurable

What will success look like for you? How will you measure that success?

A Achievable

Ask yourself, are you being realistic? This is where you factor in your skills, resources and challenges to create goals which will push you forward, but which only you can achieve.

R Relevant

Are the goals relevant to your overall vision? Think back to your ideal day and make sure any and all goals will help get you there.

And finally, the letter T Timely

What's the due date for the goal? You need to set a date when you expect your goal to have been reached.

To help you complete the SMART questionnaire here are some examples of publishing goals to give you some pointers.

I hit my June deadline right on the money to get my book written, edited and designed.

I'm excited to launch my Facebook page in May after completing Facebook training in April.

I successfully published and launched my first book to Kindle in July 2019. My team of 50 beta readers launched my book with 20 reviews on Amazon and Goodreads in July 2019.

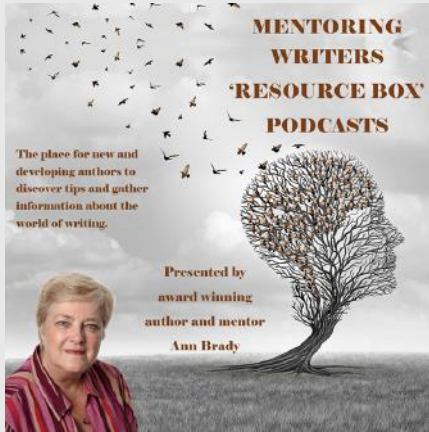
It's December 2019. I have just celebrated 500 book sales from the launch date.

Now that would be a great goal to have achieved wouldn't it?

In the meantime, Remember, there is a science and an art to setting and achieving goals, and so far, I've only just touched on the starting steps. If you want to learn more there are a number of short courses which can help you with goal setting, usually found through Small Business Success Programs. These simple rules apply to all forms of business career. Otherwise, you can search online where you'll find coaches and programs galore who will help you set and achieve your publishing goals. The best of luck.

If you need help with any aspect of your writing, including mentoring, workshops, marketing, blogs or social media etc then email us at contact@mentoringwriters.co.uk and we will assist you in your writing journey.

PODCAST NEWS



We are delighted to see that the unique downloads and the number of followers for the Mentoring Writers Resource Box Podcasts has been steadily increasing over the last few months. It goes to show that what we are offering in the way of advice through out podcasts is obviously the right sort of material and is working for us. It also means we are getting more recognised with enquiries for our

mentoring, reviewing and editing services on the increase.

If you haven't checked out our podcasts yet then you can do so for free through our website, otherwise you can listen on all leading podcast service providers from Spotify, to Apple, Amazon, Google, Vurbl, etc.

www.mentoringwriters.co.uk



mentoringwriters.libsyn.com/website



LATEST PODCASTS OUT NOW:

B026 WHO DO YOU LIVE WITH...

A light hearted look at how readers convers with their characters; often having love affairs with them or even murdering them off!

P041 BEING AN INDEPENDANT PUBLISHER...

Three-part podcast about being an Indie Publisher - the ups, downs, do's and don'ts.

If you have a question that you would like answering then please drop us an email and we will respond accordingly. We may also use the question in future editions of the Mentoring Writers Newsletter.

Q&A WITH ANN BRADY

Q: Does every new writer need an agent? And how much do they cost?

A. No, every writer does NOT need an agent. If you write short stories or poetry, agents won't be interested. If you write novels or memoir, you shouldn't seek representation until you have at least one finished, polished book—and most agents would prefer two.

Small and some medium-sized presses do not require an agent (for more on which ones require agents, they're listed in my book *How to be a Writer in the E-Age*.)

Most self-publishers don't have agents, although the role of agent is changing, and now many agents are helping authors self-publish. I think it's a good plan for most first novelists to query agents to see if there's interest. Going through the query process is a great way to learn about the business and hone marketing skills and it keeps your options open in this rapidly changing business.

But if you do get an offer, always have a lawyer or knowledgeable third party look at the contract before signing. Some agent contracts these days can be predatory, even from legitimate agencies. As far as cost: agents charge a commission—after they've sold your work. They pretty much all charge the same: 10%-15% of domestic sales, 20% foreign.

And NEVER pay an agent anything upfront. It's not considered ethical to charge a fee for reading your manuscript. The network of agents and editors is fairly small, and a fee-charging agent won't belong to that network and won't be able to sell your book to a reputable publisher. Here's a blogpost with more on how to spot bogus and unethical agents.



Ann Brady - award winning author and mentor with over 30 years experience.

Q: All I get is rejections. Should I give up writing?

A: No matter how far along you are in your career, I guarantee somebody will hate your work and say that you "can't write." All a rejection means is that you're sending your work out there. Which puts you ahead of the writers who aren't getting rejected yet. But, if you find you really don't enjoy writing novels, don't think that giving up is "failure." There are lots of other writing outlets besides the novel format. Short fiction is soaring in popularity. Or you may find that you'd prefer to put your energy into blogging. Blogs can reach a lot more people than a novel.

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