

NAME:	Patricia Simpson 
Profile: <i>(Tell us about yourself; how long have you been writing? What inspires you to write? how long have you been a member of Watford Writers? What are your favourite reads?)</i>	I have written in some form or another since I first learned to write. My first reward was a small tin of Cadbury's chocolate for writing about the process of making chocolate. My first fiction award was a creative writing credit linked to my English Literature A-level ((GCE). I enjoy watching my characters come to life on the page (not always in the way you expect) to tell the story from my imagination. I joined Watford Writers about ten years ago and have loved the positive criticism and support afforded by all of Watford Writers to every member whatever their style or genre.
Main writing interests <i>(Novelist, Poet, Playwright, Biographer, Historian, Academic, Researcher, other etc?)</i>	My main writing interests cover quite a wide range. First and foremost I write fiction. My first crime novel 'Death is Waiting' was published in 2023. I have also written a report on pottery finds for an archaeological dig, a dissertation on The Royal Manor of Watford in Tudor times and a background social history section for 'Dance Through History' a history of dance and costume through the ages with two other authors.
Do you have a special place in which to write?	I have my Plotting Shed at the bottom of the garden which I use depending on the weather. My daughter kindly had a sign made which is proudly displayed over the door. Otherwise anywhere I can put pen to paper for the initial draft. I also write the occasional poem for our group's monthly competitions.
Do you have a preferred time of day for writing?	Not a specific time as such, I am not that organised. I try to write something each day. I am usually up quite early and tend to think about the plot or character actions then. The writing is usually done in the afternoons.
Have you been published or have self-published? <i>(Please list your publications)</i>	Death is Waiting was published in 2023 The Dance Through History published in Autumn 2025 Murder at Martyr's Cross is the work in progress.

Do you have any special techniques for writing? Specialist equipment or writing aids?	I have a dictaphone which I usually carry around and use for sudden ideas that flit into my mind. Otherwise pen and notebook for any coffee shop visits or times away from home.
Have you been involved with any other writing activities? <i>(e.g. workshops, organising writing events, attending external workshops, retreats?)</i>	I have been on creative writing courses with Faber&Faber as well as the Professional Writing Academy. The Old Peculiar Crime Writers Festival has been a regular trip for me for several years now including the excellent Creative Thursdays. I organised my own writers retreat to Devon and would like to attend similar events in the future.
What writing project are you currently working on (or intend to start)?	I have another DCI Mortmain story brewing about yet another murder which will be the third in the series.
Do you have other interests? and/or member of other groups/societies?	My once first love is History which I taught for twenty years. I am a member of the National Trust. Gardening is also a hobby but my finest crop is usually the weeds that do not really need my help to flourish.
Do you have a website; Facebook, Twitter; Instagram? or write a blog?	I am on Facebook since retiring from teaching as well as Linkedin. I do not, as yet, have a website but that is a future project.
What message would you like to give to other writers / would-be writers?	Keep writing. Don't give in to the dreaded Writer's Block or be demoralised by others. The fun is in bringing to life the stories and characters trapped in your head. There will be people out there who will enjoy your work. Also join a good Writers' Group as I did with Watford Writers. Their support and encouragement is priceless.
Do you have favourite author or book?	Lyndsay Davies – Falco novels Georgette Heyer – Historical Romance Lee Child – Jack Reacher Dorothy L. Sayers – Lord Peter Wimsey Recently joining this list, Mick Herron and Slough House