



NAME:	Lesley Kerr	
Profile: (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?)	<p>I have been writing and telling stories for as long as I can remember. I wrote stories for my family's entertainment and drafted a fictional magazine based on my friends complete with stories and problem pages at school. After attending an evening Creative Writing course at Watford College in 2018 I joined Watford Writers in September 2019. I am inspired by character development and "getting inside people's heads". I enjoy creating dialogue and developing back stories for people who I encounter in my everyday life!</p> <p>I like contemporary fiction by female authors such as Sabine Durrant, Donna Tartt and Anita Shreve as well as the nonfiction memoirs of Dr Maya Angelou.</p>	
Main writing interests (Novelist, Poet, Playwright, Biographer, Historian, Academic, Researcher, other etc?)	<p>My main interests are novels and flash fiction. I do not read as much non-fiction, but I am very interested in history. As a second-generation immigrant whose parents came to the UK from Trinidad as part of the so called 'Windrush generation', I am especially drawn to the stories of 1960s immigration from the Caribbean. My mother was recruited into nursing, like so many women and girls at the time, and I am writing a novel that is inspired by her early experiences living in the UK.</p>	
Do you have a special place in which to write?	<p>I have been able to take over my husband's home office as he has retired and have made it into my dream space where I write, read and craft. I feel very lucky to have it.</p>	
Do you have a preferred time of day for writing?	<p>I try to write a few days a week in hourly sessions and longer at the weekend when I have more time but it's very dependent on what else is happening at home and at work!</p>	
Have you been published or have self-published? (Please list your publications)	<p>I have had a short story called "The Way Back Home" included in the anthology <i>Where we Find Ourselves: Poems and Stories of Maps and Mapping from UK Writers of the Global Majority</i>, published by Arachne Press in October 2021. Following its</p>	

	publication, I was interviewed for an article in The Guardian. It was a hugely exciting experience and one I hope to experience again!
Do you have any special techniques for writing? Specialist equipment or writing aids?	Not really – I go back and forth between my laptop and pen and paper.
Have you been involved with any other writing activities? (e.g. workshops, organising writing events, attending external workshops, retreats?)	No.
What writing project are you currently working on (or intend to start)?	I would like to complete the manuscript of the novel I am writing based on my mother's experience as above.
Do you have other interests? and/or member of other groups/societies?	I enjoy journalling, keeping active at the gym and I volunteer for a refugee charity in Watford. I also like visiting museums and art galleries and have a membership to the Victoria & Albert Museum in London which is a beautiful space and I love spending time there.
Do you have a website; Facebook, Twitter; Instagram? or write a blog?	I used to write a monthly HR/OD focussed blog for work which I enjoyed writing. I am very inactive on social media otherwise!
What message would you like to give to other writers / would-be writers?	To join a writer's group to hear more experienced writers' work and get feedback on yours. I have also signed up to the London Writing Salon which has dedicated writing hours every weekday which means that I try to write for an hour two or three times a week. The most valuable lesson I have learned from Watford Writers is that the first draft will be very rough so it doesn't need to be anywhere near perfect. That has given me the impetus to make a start somewhere and just keep going!
Do you have favourite author or book?	My favourite author was an American writer named Anita Shreve; she has written some of my all-time favourite books including 'The Pilot's Wife' and 'Sea Glass', both of which I have read very many times!