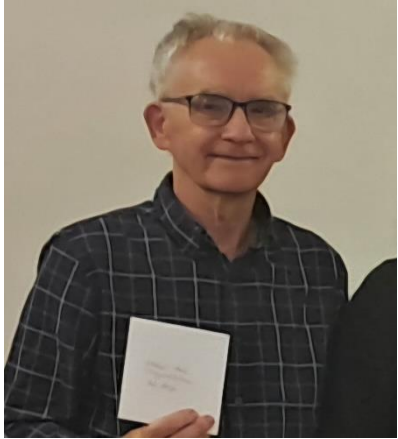


NAME:	MIKE LANSDOWN 
Profile: <i>(Tell us about yourself; how long have you been writing? What inspires you to write? how long have you been a member of Watford Writers? What are your favourite reads?)</i>	I joined Watford Writers in 2017 but had been writing for a few years before that. I had written simple poems and ditties, as well as the first 40000 words of a (now abandoned) semi-autobiographical account of life as a teacher. I had also written the first part of a historical fiction trilogy, 'Adam's Lock' and had started planning a book for students/ newly qualified teachers entitled 'In the Zone'. Since joining Watford Writers, and having the opportunity to enter regular competitions, I have developed as a writer of flash fiction and poetry. My inspiration comes from here, there, and everywhere! The regular competitions and their titles help to focus the mind, and I enjoy learning about history which, in turn, informs the writing of my trilogy. I have wide tastes in reading but particularly like literary fiction. Having joined a local reading group in the past year has encouraged me to read out of my comfort zone, something I believe is important for would-be authors.
Main writing interests <i>(Novelist, Poet, Playwright, Biographer, Historian, Academic, Researcher, other etc?)</i>	As suggested above, I write in a range of styles and for different purposes. My two books for teachers, 'In the Zone' and 'A Quick Guide to meeting the Teaching Standards', are factual and meant to support fellow teachers, whereas everything else tends to be fiction or poetry.
Do you have a special place in which to write?	I tend to write in several places around the house but have most of my historical source materials in a spare bedroom with a desk. Unusually, perhaps, I prefer to write poems on the laptop and edit as I go.
Do you have a preferred time of day for writing?	I think the middle of the day – after breakfast and before teatime – tends to be the time I write my best material.

	However, ideas for poems (images/ lines/ phrases...) can come at any time of the day (or night!) and need to be written down on anything to hand.
Have you been published or have self-published? <i>(Please list your publications)</i>	Both. I published two educational books with Critical Publishing (educational publishers) while Adam's Lock was published with theendlessbookcase (self-publishing) and 'The Land Beyond the Seas' with TSL publishers in Rickmansworth. I have self-published a new collection of poetry (Ffenestri) with Draft2Digital and may use them for 'Homecoming', the third book of the Adam's Lock trilogy.
Do you have any special techniques for writing? Specialist equipment or writing aids?	Not really. I do have quite a few books on writing which have been helpful. However, the best aid/ support has come from being a member of Watford Writers and attending several courses including Guardian Masterclasses and a short course at the CityLit.
Have you been involved with any other writing activities? <i>(e.g. workshops, organising writing events, attending external workshops, retreats?)</i>	I have organised and led a number of workshops for Watford Writers and presently run my own writers' group, Penn Pushers, in Rickmansworth.
What writing project are you currently working on (or intend to start)?	I am working on the final draft of 'Homecoming', the final part of the Adam's Lock trilogy. I am also self-publishing Ffenestri, a book of poems..
Do you have other interests? and/or member of other groups/societies?	I am a member of a book club that meets monthly at Rickmansworth library. I also volunteer (and am a trustee) at Rickmansworth Waterways Trust and have recently joined the committee of Friends of Stockers Lake as recruitment officer. Art, dog-walking, and supporting the Welsh rugby team are amongst my other pursuits.
Do you have a website; Facebook, Twitter; Instagram? or write a blog?	I am not currently very active. I do have accounts and dip in and out occasionally.
What message would you like to give to other writers / would-be writers?	Just go for it! Joining a writing group has been great for me and I know many others feel the same. At first, sharing work can feel quite exposing, but the support and positive criticism you will receive are incredibly empowering.
Do you have favourite author or book?	I have liked everything I've read by William Boyd. Also, everything that Bill Bryson writes brings delight.