



NAME:	<p>IAN WELLAND</p> 
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>	<p>I have been writing for over fifty years and have always been inspired by particular locations, events and circumstances.</p> <p>I joined Watford Writers in 2019 after my wife and I were invited by the late Helen Nicell to a talk by former Watford Observer journalist, Oliver Phillips. I officially joined a few weeks later. My favourite reads tend to be memoirs and diaries, books on art and astronomy, first world war poetry, and historical fiction.</p>
Main writing interests <i>(Novelist, Poet, Playwright, Biographer, Historian, Academic, Researcher, other etc?)</i>	<p>I am known for my academic research, lectures and writing on art and art history; however, in the past I have specialised in local history and astronomy.</p> <p>Nowadays, I write books on art history, historical fiction, and dabble in a bit of poetry.</p>
Do you have a special place in which to write?	<p>My writing shed (which also doubles-up as a music shed) is my haven. It is in my garden, so well away from the distractions of our house. My wife has a splendid art studio in the garden.</p>
Do you have a preferred time of day for writing?	<p>I am a morning person and can be found in the shed most writing days from 6am. I try and get in a writing evening (normally Wednesdays) once a week. I suffer badly from tinnitus, so BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM keep me company!</p>
Have you been published or have self-published? <i>(Please list your publications)</i>	<p>For over 30 years, I was published in magazines on art, local history, and astronomy. I am retired from magazine writing, so I enjoy self-publishing my books through my own publishing house, The Altair Press. (All proceeds going to a local charity).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Round and Around</i> (Selected Poems 1978 – 2023) ➤ <i>Duty of Candour</i> (part 1 of a trilogy) (published: 2023) ➤ <i>On Art</i> (published: 2024)

	➤ <i>Remorse for the Rising Sun</i> (published: January 2026)
Do you have any special techniques for writing? Specialist equipment or writing aids?	<p>I don't have any specific writing techniques but tend to produce several drafts before finally signing-off. Even then, the odd mistake still remains!</p> <p>I currently use a laptop but deciding on whether to invest in a large display monitor – age is catching up on me sight-wise.</p>
Have you been involved with any other writing activities? (e.g. workshops, organising writing events, attending external workshops, retreats?)	<p>I have presented several workshops to Watford Writers over the years; plus, a series of lectures on art history at West Herts College, Watford.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to increasing hearing issues I have pulled back from lecturing, preferring to place all my energies into writing books.</p>
What writing project are you currently working on (or intend to start)?	<p>I am currently writing a book on art historians, and it is starting to become known as the “opus.” The idea came from a suggestion by my wife Louise who said ‘why not expand on your lecture notes and put together a definitive guide to the key art and art historians?’ The research for this book commenced in spring 2025 and is likely to continue for a few years yet. I may just publish the first volume in 2027, time allowing.</p> <p>I am also just finishing the third book in the trilogy of historical fiction which I hope to publish in 2027 – we shall see.</p>
Do you have other interests? and/or member of other groups/societies?	<p>I have interests in British History (particularly the period 1900 – 1939) but also in the development of the English country house and estate from the eighteenth century.</p> <p>I am a member of the Association of Art History, and The William Shipley Group.</p>
Do you have a website; Facebook, Twitter; Instagram? or write a blog?	<p>www.ianwelland.co.uk</p> <p>Twitter (X): @AuthorWelland</p>
What message would you like to give to other writers / would-be writers?	<p>Just write – inspiration comes from a wonderful plethora of places – all around us are ideas just waiting to be explored. Write down your dreams. Keep a notepad by the bed (because we all wake up in the night with ideas buzzing!).</p> <p>Join Watford Writers and KidsLit!</p>
Do you have favourite author or book?	<p>Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh is my favourite book.</p> <p>I very much enjoy the writing of Adrian “Ade” Tinniswood, Peter Mandler, Adrian Phillips, Andrew Lownie, Phil Craig, Andrew Graham Dixon, James Lees Milne, Patrick Moore; and, the poetry of John Clare, Robert Graves, R.S. Thomas, and Hedd Wyn.</p>