

Watford: What's your narrative?

David Elliott

How well do you know your battle ground?

- Watford.
- What is your little-known fact or memory of the Town? (10 minute writing session to get the thoughts flowing. Acrostic if stuck)
- Today's mission - to use the Borough as a diving board, to jump into Watford and use its history and architecture to develop a storyline.
- We are all happy within our own writing journeys, let Watford take you to a place that you might never have considered before.

Places in literature

- Oxford - Many inc Philip Pullman & Colin Dexter
- Lake district - Ransome's Swallows and Amazons
- Hardy's Dorset
- Frenchman's Creek - Daphne du Maurier
- Whitby - Bram Stoker
- Ashdown Forest- 100-acre Wood - A A Milne
- Congo - Heart of Darkness
- Hemmingway and how many others moved to Paris for inspiration, so what's wrong with using Watford as your muse.

Watford in literature

- Tropic of Ruislip - Leslie Thomas
- Room with a View - E M Forster (Very End)
- Katherine McMahon - The hour of Separation.
- J G Ballard
- Too many TV and Film scripts to mention
- Any others???

What does location add to your writing

- Grounds the story
- Adds latitude and longitude - Beauty or the Beast
- Includes a social and cultural element
- Builds your story utilising a local terroir
- Adds texture - sights - smells - taste - the sounds of the underground - a fine wine or a piquant vinegar
- Idealised or romantic?
- A manuscript map - Omniscient or fragmented?
- Psychogeography

Types / genres of literature

- Gothic /Horror
- Action adventure
- Magical fantasy
- Historical fiction
- Romance
- Dystopian
- Young Adult
- Comedy
- Sci-Fi of all sorts
- Murder / Mystery

Your task today

- To marry an iconic Watford location with a genre of your choice and develop an innovative storyline.
- A real or imagineered Watford - the one you want it to be.
- Work alone or in small groups to make Watford immortal.
- Clear your head. Delve into your own knowledge / experiences. No matter how big or small. Good or bad.
- Here are some places to use as a jump start







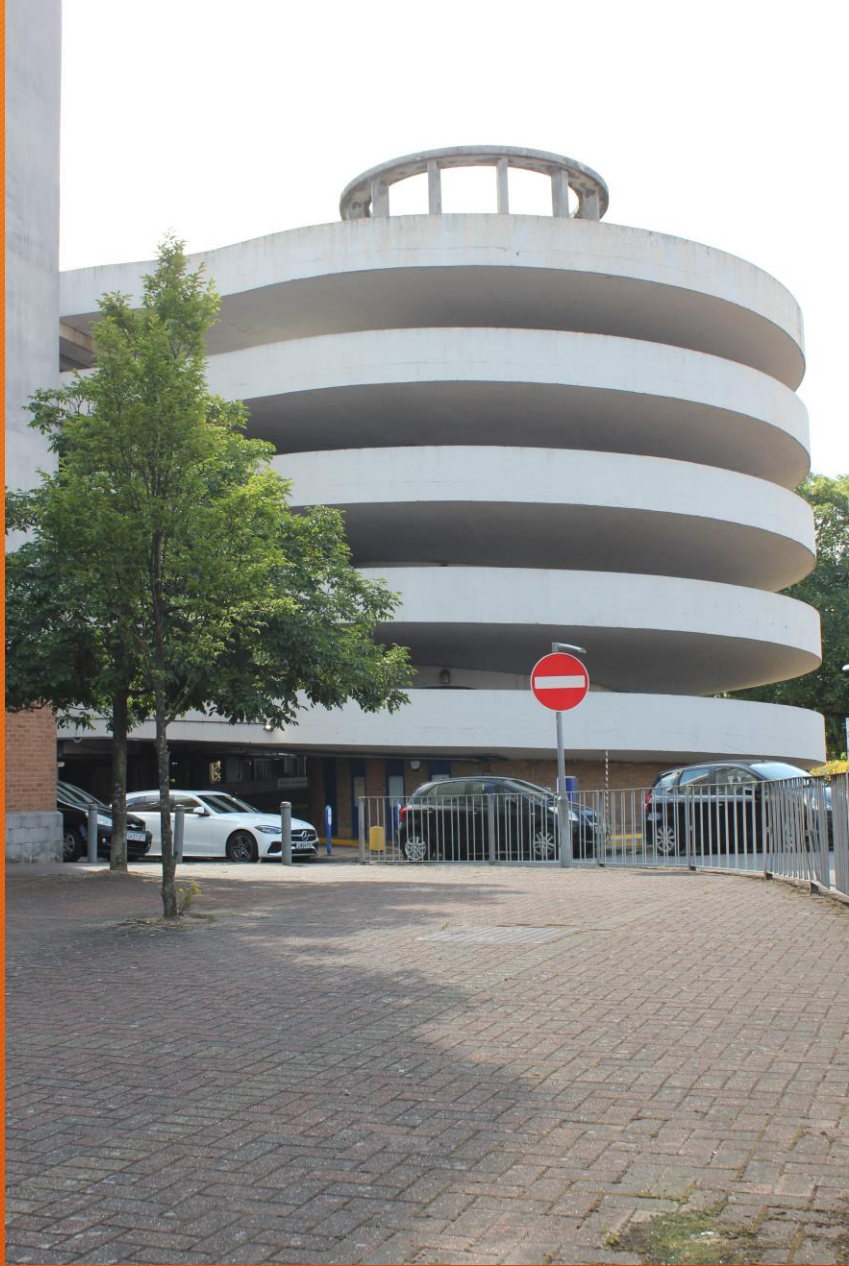




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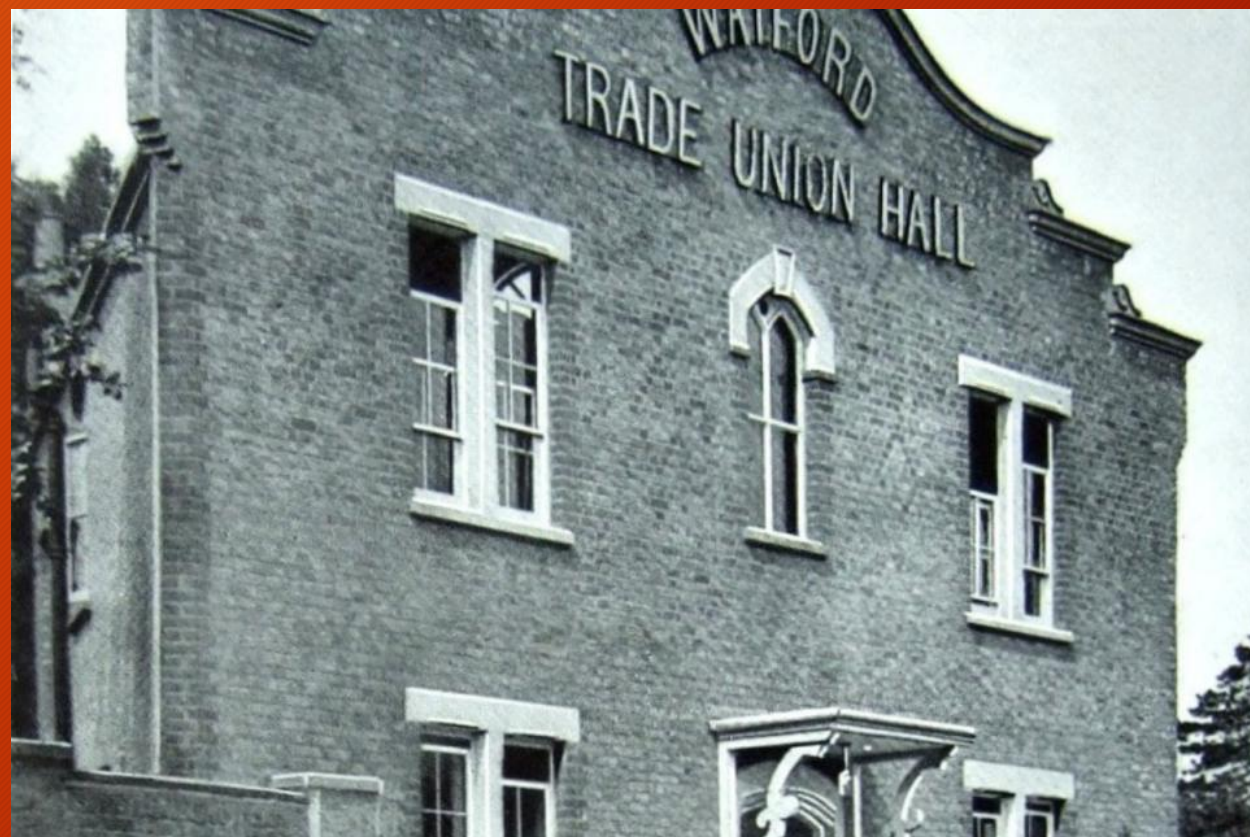








Photos Watford Observer



Develop your Watfordian Character

- From the Greek - an engraved mark.
- With Watford's print background - very symbolic
- Watford's DNA printed / engraved on their soul
- Are they...
- A wise team manager & guru?
- An actor with the highs and lows of fame and selfdoubt
- Sports star going through the bad times planning the road to redemption
- A politician trying to reconsole a national predicament
- An Ab Fab window dresser / designer

Characters from Watford.

Does their DNA embrace the town?

- Terry Scott
- Vinnie Jones
- Nick Leeson
- Mo Mowlam
- Gareth Southgate
- Steven Finn
- A.J.
- Bradley Walsh
- Mary Portas
- Any others? Any anecdotes?











All photos Watford
Observer



Let's finish

- Continue to work your piece.
- Add the new dimension of a local character
- See where this takes you
- Around the gridlocked ring road on a 142 or 321?
- Or go against the traffic, reverse everything and take your story & character rogue.
- PS the bus doesn't go to Saint Albans, Ricky or Bushey - Today is all about Watford baby.