


<p>NAME:</p>	<p>Raffi Katz</p> 
<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>	<p>I've been writing since I was seven and I'm now...older. Ideas just 'bubble up' at random, there's nothing specific that 'inspires' me. I'm a compulsive writer, I write every day.</p> <p>My reading tends to be random too, based on books reviewed in the New Scientist, recommended by friends or borrowed from my wife's extensive personal library.</p> <p>Recent reads: Jeanette Winterson, William Boyd, Michael Chabon, Joma West, Alexander Howard, Wendy Joseph, Deborah Orr, Edwin A Abbott, Christopher Priest, Steve Taylor.</p> <p>I've been a member of <i>Watford Writers</i> since 2022.</p>
<p>Main writing interests <i>(Novelist, Poet, Playwright, Biographer, Historian, Academic, Researcher, other etc?)</i></p>	<p>My speciality is 'technical writing' and I think I'm rather good at it. I've written 25 articles for my work website including <i>Magnification and Magnifiers</i>; <i>Measuring Radioactivity, cps (counts per second) versus Sieverts (measurement of risk)</i>; <i>How UV light works</i>; <i>Twelve methods of testing gold</i>; <i>Weighing and Weighing Machines</i>....and you just have to read my latest masterpiece, <i>The relative merits of electrical conductivity, UV absorption and thermal conductivity as methods of testing diamonds</i>.</p> <p>Each time I go to the cinema I write a review of the film; likewise with theatre, books, concerts and outings.</p> <p>Upon reading a book about <i>Time</i> I jotted down some notes...which turned into 2,500 words. There's my 'holiday journal' when I go away; portraits of two recent weddings (my children got married); essays about anything and everything interesting that happens in my life. There are 38 anecdotes about what it's like to be faceblind, 35 pages of 'interesting ideas', and sometimes I get to write a short story.</p>

	<p>Alas, I don't consider myself good at <i>creative</i> writing. I try to write in different styles but my stories often morph into science fiction fantasy thrillers.</p>
<p>Do you have a special place in which to write?</p>	<p>On a computer in a squishy corner of the living room. It's a 'special' place because that is where the computer resides.</p>
<p>Do you have a preferred time of day for writing?</p>	<p>Between 6am and 11pm.</p>
<p>Have you been published or have self-published? (Please list your publications)</p>	<p><i>The Gold & Silver Buyer's Handbook</i>. Over the years I've sold about 3,000 copies and am about to sell out of the fifth edition.</p> <p><i>Cassiobury Walks, 30 walks from Cassiobury Park</i>. I printed 500. I doubted the wisdom of printing so many, since it could only be of interest to those who live near the park. It sold out in two years.</p> <p>I used to write columns for two antiques magazines (about 150 articles over seven years) plus about 25 newspaper articles. I now write for that internationally-renowned publication, <i>The Friends of Cassiobury Park Magazine</i>.</p>
<p>Do you have any special techniques for writing? Specialist equipment or writing aids?</p>	<p>I use a computer. My technique is to type very fast on the keyboard. As a fallback I have learnt to write on paper using a pen.</p>
<p>What writing project are you currently working on (or intend to start)?</p>	<p>I've written the opening chapters of two novels. The problem is, I've no idea what happens next. So this is going to require a lot of work. I hope to continue when I retire.</p>
<p>Do you have other interests? and/or member of other groups/societies?</p>	<p>I belong to the 'other' Writers Group (yes, there are two in Watford!). It's smaller than Watford Writers, with less than a dozen members.</p> <p>Watford Camera Club. Once or twice a year I give a presentation, showing my photographs. I always start by describing some photos I never got to take, to illustrate my opinion that "A photo is worth a thousand words" is not correct.</p>
<p>What message would you like to give to other writers / would-be writers?</p>	<p>Writing is fun, it takes you to unusual places. Don't worry if what you write doesn't turn out as you expect, don't give up, put each story aside and go back to it hours, days or weeks later; read it afresh (as if you've never seen it before) - you <i>will</i> get to say to yourself, "That's good!"</p>