

NAME:	IAN WELLAND 
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 have been writing for over fifty years and have always been inspired by particular locations, events and circumstances. 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.
Main writing interests <i>(Novelist, Poet, Playwright, Biographer, Historian, Academic, Researcher, other etc?)</i>	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. Nowadays, I write books on art history, historical fiction, and dabble in a bit of poetry.
Do you have a special place in which to write?	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.
Do you have a preferred time of day for writing?	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!
Have you been published or have self-published? <i>(Please list your publications)</i>	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). ➤ <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> (part 2 of a trilogy) (published: January 2026)

Do you have any special techniques for writing? Specialist equipment or writing aids?	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! I currently use a laptop but have invested in a large display monitor – age has caught up on me sight-wise.
Have you been involved with any other writing activities? (e.g. workshops, organising writing events, attending external workshops, retreats?)	I have presented several workshops to Watford Writers over the years; plus, a series of lectures on art history at West Herts College, Watford. Unfortunately, due to increasing hearing issues I have pulled back from lecturing, preferring to place all my energies into writing books.
What writing project are you currently working on (or intend to start)?	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. I am also just finishing the third book in the trilogy of historical fiction which I hope to publish in 2027 – we shall see.
Do you have other interests? and/or member of other groups/societies?	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. I am also very keen on art deco architecture and design. My favourite art gallery is the Pallant House Gallery in Chichester and try to visit at least once a year. I am a member of the Association of Art History, and The William Shipley Group. I also have a keen interest in music through which inspiration can strike for writing at any time!
Do you have a website; Facebook, Twitter; Instagram? or write a blog?	www.ianwelland.co.uk
What message would you like to give to other writers / would-be writers?	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!). Come and join Watford Writers and KidsLit!
Do you have favourite author or book?	Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh is my favourite book. I very much enjoy the writing of Adrian “Ade” Tinniswood, Peter Mandler, Adrian Phillips, Andrew Lownie, Phil Craig, T.J. Clark, James Lees Milne, Patrick Moore; and, the poetry of John Clare, Robert Graves, R.S. Thomas, and Hedd Wyn.