

A brief history of Bridgnorth Writers' Group

Our first meeting was in September 1991 at Bridgnorth Library. We had a good turnout that night – around fifteen people – and our new group was born. The initial concept has not changed: a self-help, encouraging, critiquing group for writers of all genres. We've always been non-selective and given equal weight to all writers, whether at the start of their journey, or an established, published author.

We stayed at the library for a few years, then had meetings in several different venues, including houses and various pubs. We're currently meeting again at Bridgnorth Library. We've also had trips out, and Christmas and other celebrations.

Members have participated in several workshops, including with Emma Purshouse, Michael Thomas and the poet, Katrina Porteous. In the early days we had an Arts grant which enabled us to produce booklets, hire a voice coach and put on a show at The Theatre on the Steps, complete with food and drinks.

Many of our members and former members have achieved success, whether as published authors, competition winners or performers, including:

- Fiction and non-fiction writers: Sharon Ashton, Sarah Baker, Steve Brotherton, Ben Crane, Kate Innes, Liz Kershaw, Jeff Phelps and Susannah Stapleton,
- Playwright: Tom Wentworth.
- Publisher: Nadia Kingsley, Fairacre Press
- Award winning and published poets: Sharon Ashton, David Bingham, Teresa Black, Keith Chandler, Barbara Chapman, Paul Francis, Ian Parr, Nick Pearson, Jeff Phelps, Lizzie Prudence and Colin Wells