

Attendance	15
Apologies	Rachael
New	Robert Daly

**AGENDA:**

Welcome to our second Covid in the Hub meeting, though numbers were down on what has been previously experienced, it is encouraging to see that those who are able to attend do so with enthusiasm for all things writing. It is hoped that this newsletter finds all of you in the land of internet communications in reasonable health, and in touch with family and friends as can be arranged.

We enjoyed meeting with new member Robert today, who is a recently retired bus driver, but who has also been a police chaplain in his working career, and shares a keen interest in science and philosophy. Now that sounds like a wealth of writing resources to draw upon.

■ It was most exciting to finally touch, see and read the final draft of our most recent **CWL Anthology**. It has gone home to some key members who are going to give it the final okay before bulk publishing occurs. It will be available from Amazon, as well as by prepaid order from CWL. So watch this space for advice on members' special prices. This should be good for Christmas presents for family and friends.

■ Chair Peter handed out his **2020 survey** for members today. This is a simple, easy device to measure what the membership like about CWL, and will inform the direction and meeting inclusions for CWL. It was pleasing to see so many completed by meetings end and submitted, but do not feel time pressured. Please forward to Peter as completed.

■ Today's **topic of discussion** was the development of characters in your writing. Of course, considerations were given to both fiction and non-fiction writing, and opened up an interesting dialogue about the particular considerations that need to be made depending on the genre being undertaken. As with all conversations at CWL the topic morphed into further areas, for today this became creativity and maintaining it, as well as the care to be taken with people's real life experiences, in the case of memoirs and biographies. This then flowed on to selecting the reading audience, and a discussion about the reason a writer writes. Is it for the audience or for the writer's self-indulgence?

Peter's treatise on the above topic was well thought out, and though he vainly tried to stick with his prepared work, discussions being discussions, he generously allowed the

conversation to develop along members' interests. To air a quote from Peter's notes, he refers to writer Anne Lamott, who states 'character emerges the way that a Polaroid develops – it takes time'. Once your character is introduced it is up to the writer to develop the character.

This then of course leads on to the term 'infodump' which is where everything is known about a character from the getgo. This is certainly not encouraged. Along with our shared membership's observations it is important to keep the writing credible, able to be related to, share human understandings and experiences and be accurate to both setting place and time.

■ HOMEWORK was most entertaining today as members really strove to achieve the cliff-hanger in their craft. As a result we now have a membership who really would like the next instalment from today's offerings. We heard a very thoughtful presentation about the notion of time, went to Casinos where one character had a royal flush and another outed a cheat; we went to an equestrian event which stopped at the last hurdle and we were left wondering if the fictional setting of Algorab would actually have a tomorrow. How's that for being left up in the air and aren't there some wonderful opportunities to finish what has been started for these authors?

#### ■ OCTOBER'S HOMEWORK TASKS

1. The Deadly Diamonds
2. I'm ready to try again, if you are.
3. Forever Amber

**300 words, or if poetry approximately 10 lines.**

*As for next meeting, well the plan is to meet at the Hub above the Library, the first Tuesday of October. Peter will keep us advised if things change in a timely way. It will still cost \$5 per member to attend to help cover the hiring charges for the room, but the coffee and tea that are provided are great. Thanks to Russell for managing the funds.*

*Best wishes to our intrepid leader Peter who is taking his other knee to the knee surgeon for a bit of panel beating so he will be off his racing legs for a little while, but will be back we hope for our next meet. Stay writing all, JANET.*