

Present: 18
Apologies: Malcolm, Ken
New: Neville, Allan and Judy

AGENDA:

Today's meeting was a full house, given the regulated spacing for seating, and what a wonderful surprise that was. Covid 19 did not defeat us, we found a new space to meet, and more importantly we soldiered on with good intentions and a desire to make it work. Well done everyone! To those of you that could not be with us today, we missed you and found reasons to mention you as if you were still with us and to the new members dipping their toes in the writers' pool welcome to you too. We hope to see you again in 2021, the first Tuesday in February.

This year we have completed, and printed and now are selling, our Anthology called 'The Writers' Palette'. We have discussed publishing, characterisation, using dialogue along with marketing, font sizes, print styles, margins, and generally laughed at the madness that was the hoarding of toilet paper, wearing or not wearing masks, sanitizing, and felt like superstars as we gave our autographs and personal details whenever we found ourselves away from home.

CWL are still work in progress to have every member comfortable with using the web site, and our wonderful web manager continues to be patient with us, and explain ad nauseum that, 'you just have to get on site and have a play'. I know, for some having a play on a computer is about as easy as flying through the air, but we are all hanging in there and hopefully next year will be less challenging for us all. I know Russell fervently hopes for this.

■ Today we started with a reminder about the parking police, who are still fining members for overstaying their time. Given the situation with the lifts (as in not working) and the time frame allowed to park at the hub, we will just have to get creative with these challenges too. Something to work on for next year.....

■ Chair Peter advised us that our bank balance is back in the black, with a healthy \$309 balance. This is very pleasing given our payment for the facilities, and the production costs of the anthology already being factored in.

■ Homework was presented by some members at today's meeting, with the Chair stating he thought it was for February, well for some it was, and for others well they just like getting ahead of things.

Today's homework was based on stimulus material provided by Peter at November's meeting, and it was most interesting to listen to folks' take on who they saw.

These pictures are posted on the web site if you missed out and would like to have a go for February's meeting.

Our first 3 presenters all chose character 7, so there was obviously a bit of a magnet there. Others ventured much further across the palette, and we heard a variety of themes used, from gateways in time, a curious fixation from 2 members related to cross-dressing, a life hard lived, surprises from the past and surprises from brief cases and the inside of books, culminating in the power of words.

As usual it was a useful insight into how we learn so much about one another by listening to the writing efforts submitted. Thank you to all who participated.

HOMEWORK for February, apart from the palette above, will be advised by the chair via an email, so it is watch the electronic mail coming your way.

■ All positions at CWL were declared vacant for the purposes of today's meeting. Chair Peter advised that all members – Peter, Janet and Ken were however happy to continue to serve CWL if that was considered desirable by those present.

There being no other candidates for the management team, CWL will continue into 2021 with the same group.

Member Audrey expressed her appreciation on behalf of the membership for the efforts of the team, and a round of applause was given.

■ Chair Peter thanked all, and before closing the meeting today, and heading off for a much deserved pre-Christmas coffee and cake reinforced the ethos of CWL and advised new members of the opportunity to get feedback of their writing efforts from the membership.

Janet wished to ensure all that the desire to support writers was the key reason for the group to exist, and that it was about being noncritical or judgemental with regard to people's efforts, but assisting each member to be the best writer they desired to be. Our meetings will continue to be as informal as we can make them, with a focus on good humour and drawing on the many strengths and skills of the membership, and thus enhancing the good name of CWL in the community.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who has offered to read the work of others, tender recommendations of how to proceed, or encouraged someone to push themselves just that little bit harder. Russell's patience and expertise, Wayne's humour and publishing stories, Martin's continued impressive output, Bhakti's keen desire to assist with digital media and to share what she has learned, Caroline and Louise's research into developing a story and sharing that with us all, along with all the poetry, and narratives in every homework piece submitted to the membership. Well done to all who have been newly published this year,

THANK YOU ALL for your efforts, so merry Christmas it is and I look forward to seeing you in 2021. CHEERS JANET

