

## **Bridgnorth Writers' Group – The History**

The first meeting of BWG was in September 1991 in 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 have always been non-selective and give 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 and have meetings in many different venues since including houses, various pubs (we are currently at The Shakespeare). We've also had trips out and Christmas 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 drink. We've been involved with the Bridgnorth Arts Festival for a number of years and have published our own project-based anthologies.

Some of our members and former members have achieved great success, whether as published authors or competition winners. To name but a few:

Fiction and non-fiction writers: Ben Crane, Susannah Stapleton, Jeff Phelps, Kate Innes, Sharon Ashton, Liz Kershaw, Sarah Baker.

Playwright: Tom Wentworth

Publisher: Nadia Kingsley (Fairacre Press).

Award winning and published poets: Keith Chandler, Paul Francis, Nick Pearson, Jeff Phelps, Sharon Ashton, Colin Wells.