

AUTHOR RESOURCE PACK FOR DEVON WRITERS



INTRODUCTION

Devon has been an inspiring place for writers for centuries, appealing to Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Charles Dickens, Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle, and many more. Today, Devon is home to authors including Fiona Williams, Lucy Holland, Sophie Pavelle, and Michael Morpurgo, among many other talents.

This resource pack aims to provide advice and answers to all those burning questions about editing, publishing, and promoting books in Devon. We've reached out to our partners, writing course providers, and local authors to ensure the information in this pack speaks directly to the vibrant writer's community that exists here.

WRITING SUPPORT IN DEVON



WRITING AND EDITING



PUBLISHING



BOOK PROMOTION



WRITING SUPPORT

Discover a range of opportunities, events, and groups to fuel your writing journey



OPPORTUNITIES AND PAID COMMISSIONS

Sign up for our Writers' Mailing list and be the first to hear about UNESCO residencies, literary competitions, and paid commissions!

[Sign up to the Devon Writers mailing list here](#)

[Sign up for our monthly newsletter](#)

Click on the logos below for more writing opportunities from Exeter City of Literature and our partners:



exeter **phoenix**



FREE LOCAL WRITING GROUPS

- [Authors.Cafe](#)
- [Devon Storytellers](#)
- [Devon Writers](#)
- [Exeter Raw Writing Meetup Group](#)
- [Shut Up & Write!](#)
- [South Devon Fiction Writing](#)
- [River Exe Writers](#)
- [Write by the Sea](#)

WRITING SPACES

Exeter City of Literature has compiled a collection of venues that offer writing spaces. Find your writing sanctuary [here!](#)



WRITING AND EDITING

“Attending writing courses enables you to learn from experienced writers. On my courses, I share everything that got me a two-book deal with Hachette and give bespoke feedback on people's writing to take it to the next level.”

Carla Jenkins, Author and Raw Writing Founder



WRITING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Establish your literary presence, share your work, receive feedback from fellow writers, refine your editing skills, and make friends!

- [Arvon](#)
- [Raw Writing](#)
- [Kathryn Aalto](#)
- [Quay Words](#)
- [Exeter Phoenix](#)
- [Exeter College](#)



TLC FREE READS SCHEME

Bursaried manuscript assessment for writers on a low income.

More info [HERE!](#)

TWICE-MONTHLY ONLINE CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Register for free [HERE!](#)

Weekday Writers

RAW WRITING

NOVEL AND MEMOIR WRITING

In-person and online writing courses based in Exeter.

Browse Raw Writing courses [HERE!](#)

ONLINE COURSES, RESIDENTIAL WRITING WEEKS & RETREATS

Browse Arvon courses [HERE!](#)



CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONAL EDITORS

- [Devon Proofreading](#)
- [Marcus Parry | Editor and Proofreader](#)
- [Jane Simmonds Editorial](#)
- [Jem Sugden Publishing Services](#)



PUBLISHING

An overview of the different paths to publishing



TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING

- Traditional publishing explained
- Publishing-focused courses by Kathryn Aalto

Level 1-4: Write Your Nonfiction Book Proposal →

From Pitch to Publication – Writing Winning Query Letters →

ADVICE FROM CARLA JENKINS

Build your Writing CV—enter writing competitions, contribute to local publications, attend courses. These efforts will solidify your literary presence.

Carla Jenkins



SELF-PUBLISHING

- Self-publishing explained
- Devon based

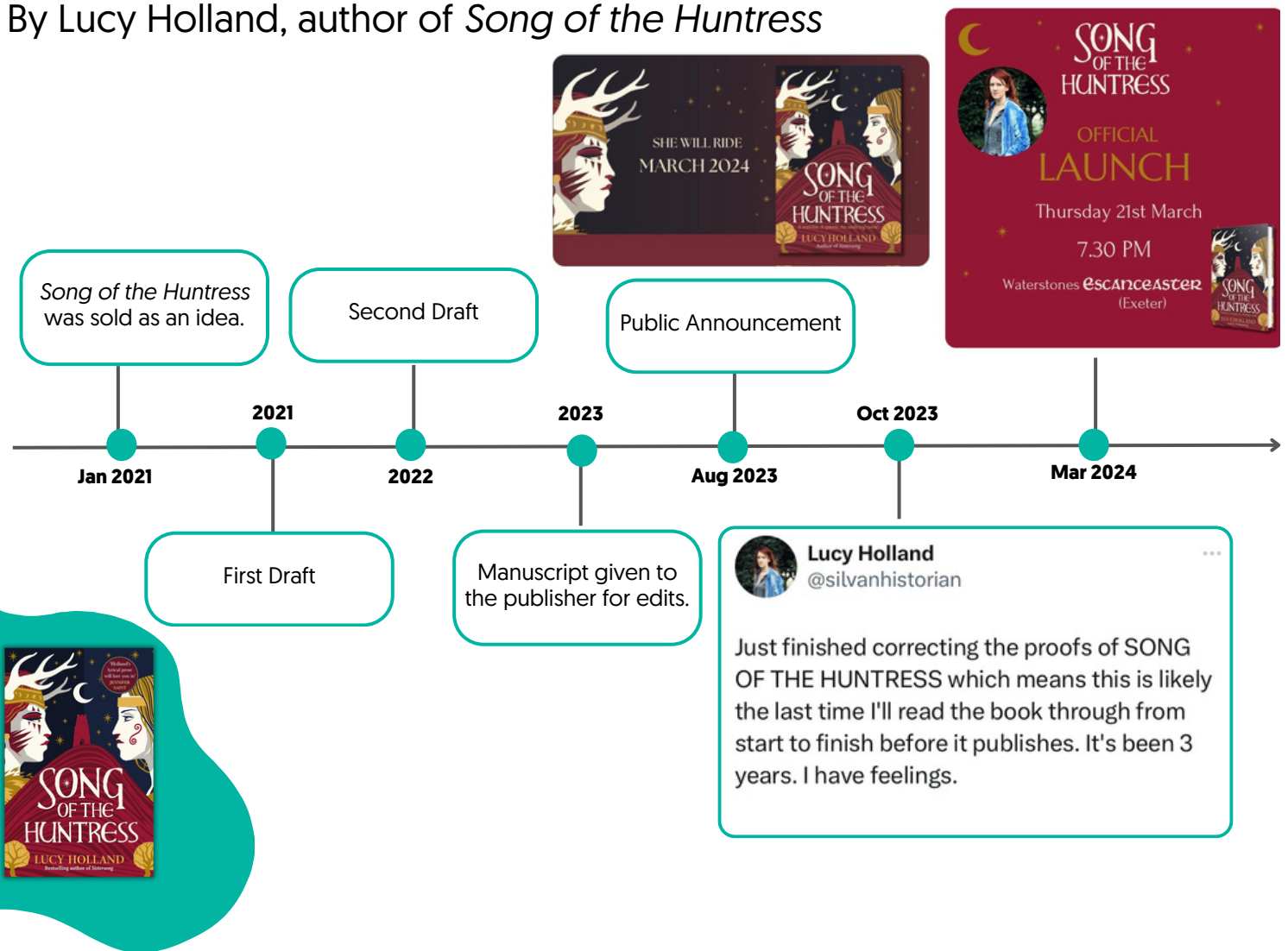
Blue Poppy Publishing →

Jem Sugden Publishing Services



PUBLISHING TIMELINE: TURNING IDEAS INTO BOOKS

By Lucy Holland, author of *Song of the Huntress*



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



[How to Get a Book Published?](#)

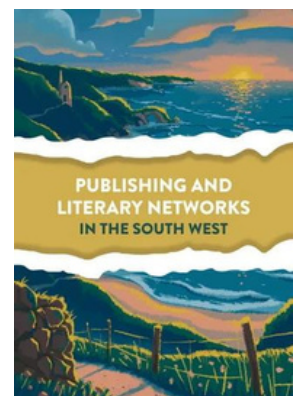
Writers & Artists

[LiteratureWorks](#) [Top Tips : Getting Published by Literary Agent Claire Wallis](#)
[Top Tips: Marketing Your Work by Ali Reynolds](#)

Clare Helen Welsh [Successful Query Letters and Routes to Publication](#)

[Publishing and Literary Networks in the South West](#)

This publication was created by the 2023-2024 MA Publishing cohort at the University of Exeter. Written for writers, researchers, and publishers alike, it highlights the South West's publishing industry and literary scene.



BOOK PROMOTION

“The best advice I was given is not to promote your book! Instead, find ways to meaningfully engage with the community.”

Clare Helen Welsh, Children’s Author



Photo credit: Yudi Wu

TOP TIPS BY CHILDREN’S AUTHOR CLARE HELEN WELSH

1. Engage with the local writing community!



2. Run events at libraries, schools, festivals, and bookshops



Photo credit: Yudi Wu

3. Get creative with social media content, videos and blogs

School Visits →



Photo credit: Lucy Holland

BOOK LAUNCH

Host an event or party to celebrate your success!

How can I advertise my event?



Submit Your Event to Exeter City of Literature’s event calendar for free

Where can I host my event?



Explore the **Creative Spaces** on our website

BOOK PROMOTION

“At Bookbag, we’ll happily advise on general book promotion if you want to come in the shop to chat.”

Charlie Richards, Co-owner of Bookbag



BOOKSHOPS

Bookshops are warm, welcoming spaces where you can mingle with fellow authors, swap stories, and celebrate your wins. Your local bookshop will likely host author events so it helps to stay connected.

Find your local independent bookshop!



TOP TIPS FROM EXETER’S INDEPENDENT BOOKSHOP

BOOKBAG

Do you accept self-published books?



“Yes. They have to fit in with the theme and general vibe of Bookbag, and we’re a small shop so space is limited.”

Build friendly relationships with local shops – it helps if they are mutually beneficial.

How can I sell my book to a bookshop?

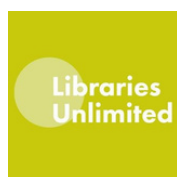
“Get an ISBN and get stocked on Gardners.”



What is an ISBN?



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANK YOU



**And a special thank you to Clare Helen Welsh, Carla Jenkins,
Kathryn Aalto, Lucy Holland, and Martina Korabikova**

**Have more questions about this
resource pack? Contact us below**



www.exetercityofliterature.com