

Each month we will focus on an inspiring author based in or writing about Wales! You'll have an introduction to their latest book, what inspires them to write, and any advice they have for young writers!

Get to know

Kathy Biggs



Kathy Biggs is originally from Yorkshire. She took a summer job in Mid Wales in 1985 - and never left. She has two grown children and lives with her husband, Paul.

After studying a number of Creative Writing courses linked to Aberystwyth University, she discovered a talent for writing. Her first novel, *The Luck*, was published in October 2022, with second novel, *Scrap*, publishing end of June this year, both by Honno Press.



Summary:

Scrap is a quirky contemporary fable set in Swansea, about the human capacity to overcome the hand life deals us and start afresh.

Life has become stale for best friends Mackie and Sharon, who never imagined they'd end up working in a scrapyards. Sharon has dreams of becoming a cruise ship star, while a browbeaten Mackie cares for his wayward daughter's twins.

But fate takes an unexpected turn when a mysterious kid is discovered in the boot of a car. He has a remarkable gift - he can draw visions of the future, and this opens up new avenues that neither could have foreseen...

What inspired you to write *Scrap*?

Scrap was inspired by a trip to a scrapyards in Swansea. My husband is a builder and he takes scrap metal in from time to time. I was waiting for him in the van when the first line of the story just came to me. The novel is set in a July heatwave, and is the story of how a young boy found in the back of a scrap car changes the lives of the people who find him.

Is writing the only artistic medium you do?

No - I also play Samba. I've played on and off for 25 years but became the leader of Small Town Samba - a community samba band based in Llanwrtyd Wells almost a year ago.

What books are currently on your bedside table?

From a Low and Quiet Sea by Donal Ryan, *Inland* by Tea

Obrecht, *Euphoria* by Lily King, *Oh! William* by Elizabeth Strout and *The Green Guides Keeping Bees* (we recently started beekeeping).

Do you have suggestions of how to encourage children and young people to read more for pleasure?

I think it has to start with encouraging parents to read to their children - to get into the habit of bedtime stories as early as possible, and to have books in the house. The ideal would be to have weekly trips to the library.