

Red Cape Publishing



INTERVIEW

WITH DIANA LINDEN



PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF INTRODUCTION, INCLUDING YOUR NAME, THE GENRE(S) YOU WRITE IN, PREVIOUS BOOKS IF ANY AND WHERE YOU ARE BASED.

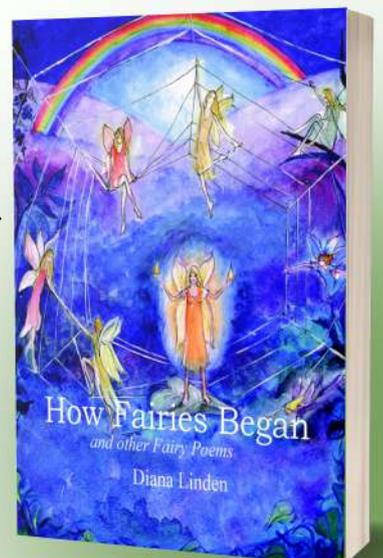
My name is Diana Linden and I live in Bournemouth in the south of England. I love this area, not only for the sea nearby, but also for the many cliff and forest walks which are fairly close at hand. I count myself very lucky to be living in an area where I can explore my love of nature, which was also a contributing factor in the writing of my children's book.

This is the first book I have written and, I might say, rather late in life! As you will see from the title, 'How Fairies Began and other Fairy Poems', I have written the stories in poetry form. Whilst I used to write articles as part of my full-time role at a College of Further Education, I have never written poetry and never for children before.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT HOW FAIRIES BEGAN. WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR HOW FAIRIES BEGAN COME FROM AND HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO WRITE?

'How Fairies Began and other Fairy Poems' consists of 12 different poems. Some of the poems such as 'The Fairy with the Torn Wing' and 'Ella and Ferdy the Fish' are mainly stories, some poems have messages such as 'Our Fairies Request' which highlights how we can help our beautiful Earth, some can be informative like 'The Magic of the Moon' and some are just plain fun like the aptly named 'Fairy Fun and Games'. Most of them involve helping one another in some way. All are illustrated in full colour and I hope you will love them as much as I do.

The book came about due to my love of children and nature in all its forms. My grandchildren are a bit older now but I used to love reading to them especially before bed when they were younger. I love poetry and, I think, most children love it too. The English language also has many words that rhyme but are not necessarily spelt as children might expect which, I think, poetry can highlight.



TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR WRITING PROCESS. DO YOU GET AN IDEA AND SUDDENLY NEED TO WRITE THAT PART? DO YOU SET ASIDE REGULAR HOURS TO WRITE?

When I had more time to spare, it seemed natural for me to put pen to paper and the words just seemed to flow as I wrote. 'How Fairies Began' was the first poem I wrote and then the others just followed naturally. I have never written within set times. I write when I'm inspired to do so and for as long as it takes, as I always complete a poem that I've started. Once the book was underway, I found it didn't take too long to complete. I just had to commission the illustrations.



THE BOOK FEATURES STUNNING ARTWORK. HOW DID YOU GO ABOUT CHOOSING THE ARTIST? DID YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF HOW YOU WANTED IT TO LOOK BEFORE YOU APPROACHED THEM?

Luckily for me my cousin, *Jane Worthington*, is an artist, who trained at Birmingham College of Art and has been an artist all her life. I love her work and she, in turn, was more than happy to do the illustrations for the book. Having provided her with an outline of the artwork I needed, she painted the many delightful full colour illustrations in her own style. They accompany the poetry perfectly and enhance the book beautifully.



WHAT AGE RANGE ARE YOU TARGETING?

This book is aimed at children of primary school age up to at least eight years of age maybe slightly older depending on the child. Whilst the older children will be able to read it for themselves, it's also an ideal book for parents/guardians and especially grandparents to read to the younger ones. I was informed by a headmistress, whom I was asking to review my poems, that the content would be ideal for expanding children's vocabulary, something I hadn't considered at the time.

WHAT DOES LITERARY SUCCESS LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

My main reason for publishing this book is that I love the poems and I would like others to read and enjoy them. If children (and also adults) enjoy reading them as much as I enjoyed writing them, then that would give me the greatest pleasure of all. That would mean literary success to me.

ARE YOU WORKING ON ANYTHING NEW?

I have written other poems along the same lines but which didn't fit into this book. I've already written and completed a pack of Oracle Cards with an accompanying booklet. These have also been illustrated by my cousin but not printed yet. In addition I have co-written a factual book aimed at adult readers which is not quite finished. However, 'How Fairies Began' is my first project and the one closest to my heart.

IF YOU ARE WRITING MORE, DO YOU WANT EACH BOOK TO STAND ON ITS OWN, OR ARE YOU TRYING TO BUILD A BODY OF WORK WITH CONNECTIONS BETWEEN EACH BOOK?

I have no plans to build a continuous body of work however I still enjoy writing poetry for children in the same format, so I can envisage at least one other book such as this one.

ANY ADVICE YOU'D GIVE TO ASPIRING WRITERS?

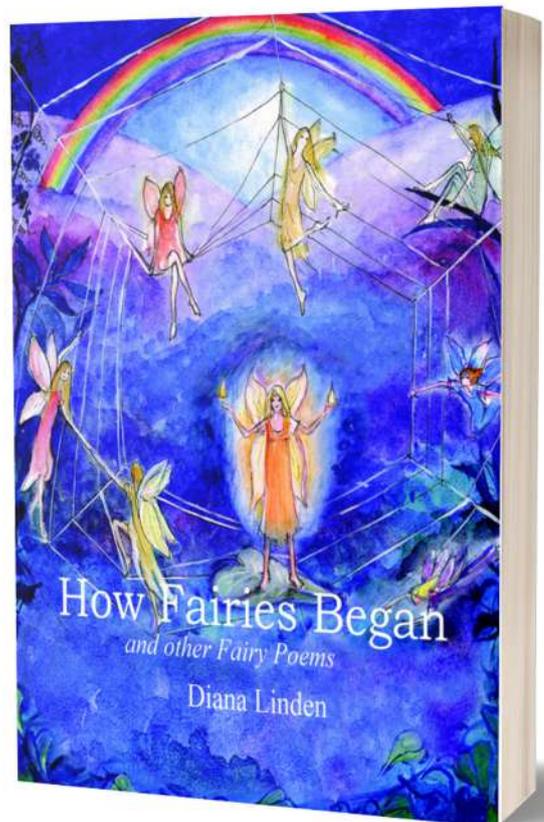
If you are an aspiring writer, my advice would be just go for it and certainly don't let confidence hold you back. You won't know how good you are at writing if you don't try in the first place. I found just the pleasure of writing fulfilling in itself and wish I had been more focused on writing when I was younger.



Fairies are also known as 'Natures Angels' as they protect, help and look after all the flowers, plants, trees, animals, birds, insects and all of nature's creatures.

Gnomes, elves pixies, sylphs, sprites and many more beings also help the planet and together with Fairies, they are collectively known as Elementals because they work with the elements of earth, air, fire and water. They all have their own special roles but can also work together when they need to.

I hope that, like these Fairies and all other Elementals, you will help to look after the wonderful things that we have to enjoy on our Mother Earth for, remember, she provides our food which grows in her gardens and seas.



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