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## How to get your book into print

They say everyone has a book inside them, but even if you turn that great idea into reality how do you get anyone to read it? Local author Jeff Robson has some advice.

After many years of research and days off spent in front of the keyboard I had what I felt was a publishable novel. I diligently ploughed through the publisher listings in the Writers' And Artists' Yearbook, to no avail.

Then, when a friend suggested I get an agent first, I turned to that section. This yielded a second drawerful of rejection letters and left the opus no nearer the Waterstones' shelves. I was still convinced there was a market for my book, a combination of World War Two yarn and Cold War espionage thriller.

### Self-publishing

By this time, I had met Mindy Gibbins-Klein, a St Alban's-based 'book midwife' who has worked with many businesses and individuals in the East Finchley area. She suggested I self-publish. On her advice I decided to go with Authorhouse, an American firm with a strong UK presence, who have published over 40,000 authors. They offered a range of packages which included distributing to Amazon and other online retailers, as well as the Waterstones branch in Gower Street.

Then things really started to happen. I found myself select-



Jeff Robson has self-published his first novel. Photo by Jonathan Evans  
ing images for cover design, seeing printer's galleys and writing the wording for a marketing kit. The process took the best part of a year, mainly due to my constant revisions.

### Marketing

It's been hard work, and a real learning experience, but great fun too. The book is now on sale and the marketing campaign (a job in itself) has just begun. I hope it will be successful, but the main thing is that it's out there and people can judge for themselves. After all these years that's a great feeling.

'*Racing To Armageddon*', by J.V Robson is on sale now, available from Amazon and other online retailers, as well as direct from the Authorhouse site at [www.authorhouse.co.uk](http://www.authorhouse.co.uk). To find out more about the book go to [www.racingtoarmageddon.co.uk](http://www.racingtoarmageddon.co.uk)

## Striking photos go on show

The East Finchley Open group of artists has many photographers amongst its 50 members. This year 16 of them are showing their work within a series of EFO exhibitions entitled *Trans>Form*.

Brigitt Angst employs images of the natural world in her visual playground. Adam Justice-Mills memorises and comments on social spaces and Peter Kyte's focus is on the ability of the camera to freeze time for the ever-changing natural phenomena and colours of plants and trees.

In contrast, David Godny is a "photographic hunter", capturing rare and fleeting wild beasts in natural motion. David Waller uses his old photographs and physically transforms them into new, original artworks, whilst Francesca Albin makes photography transform dolls into mysterious beings with human features.

Karen Fraser is showing the mystery of places and plants growing and Jane Higgison is re-inventing her own realities, blurring the boundary between photography and abstract art.

The exhibition opens in four houses on the weekend of 26 to 28 March (Friday evening and Saturday/Sunday 12-6pm). The



Brigitt Angst's *TongueDuo* will be one of the photos on show. Photo courtesy EFO.

houses are all within walking distance of each other: 27 and 34 Church Lane, 269 Creighton Avenue and 21 Beech Drive, and all have free parking out-

side. There is also a book of images of the show, available from the venues and online. For more details of the show visit [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk).

## Council abandons warden changes

Barnet Council's plans to end the residential warden service in sheltered accommodation have been abandoned in the wake of a High Court judgement.

Barnet was proposing to scrap residential wardens in favour of a floating service in which wardens would be based off-site, a plan that caused huge concern amongst elderly and disabled residents who feared for their safety and security.

In December, Judge Milwyn

Jarman ruled that the council had failed to consider properly the impact on disabled people of removing in-house wardens. Barnet Council originally announced that it was considering appealing against the ruling but has now withdrawn from that course of action. Sheltered housing residents have greeted this decision with jubilation.

### Judgement accepted

Councillor Lynne Hillan, Leader of the Council, said: "We have considered whether or not to appeal the High Court judgement on our plans for the sheltered housing warden service and have decided that it would not be appropriate to do so. In deciding what is right for Barnet we are aware that another council has been given leave to appeal. "In making the original judgement, Judge Jarman accepted that Barnet had carried out a 'robust and substantial' consultation that indeed 'went beyond consultation and amounted to the sort of involvement envisaged'. He noted that the council's policy had been further developed in response to consultation. However we have to accept that on a legal point, though not on policy itself, the council has been found to be remiss."

Councillor Hillan said she would recommend that the full cost of residential wardens and their accommodation be reinstated into the 2010/11 council budget.

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