

2023

# BRYN AND FRIENDS



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# FOREWORD

Bryn and Friends is a free to download magazine. The magazine is a forum to introduce readers to some very dear friends and fellow writers. Between us, we hope to delight, amuse and entertain with a selected poem, a piece of shorter fiction, our 'take' on stories making the news, forthcoming local events, imminent book launches or art exhibitions and a snapshot view of what is happening in 'our' world.

On page four, the spotlight this time is on a wonderfully talented friend, Hunter Boydell, a young man building a future in short feature films. Hopefully, Bryn and Friends will have many opportunities to feature articles and information from Hunter. In the meantime, his article explains his journey.

BP

## **NEW RELEASE!**

I am unbelievably excited to announce the forthcoming release of my first novel, 'Another Arbor'.

It has been a long three and a half years to this point, during which time I have nursed it, ranted at a silent PC, edited it till I don't know what more I can edit, checked, double and triple checked spellings, grammar, paragraphing, the whole hog!

The second book in the series has already reached the initial draft stage. Once all the dust settles, I will be toiling away at the PC, tapping away much to the annoyance of my better half!

I anticipate 'Beach Bombs' will 'land' on Amazon and Kindle around early August 2023.

I have a further two books 'under construction'. The first is an anthology of shorter fiction, quirky little stories with a sting in their tails. The second is a collection of original poetry, mainly on taboo or 'difficult' subjects.

My final project will be one of the most difficult because it is in its own way something of a passion

project. In brief, it involves the fictionalised retelling of true original anecdotes related to me by the extraordinary and courageous veterans of World War 2. In particular, it spotlights the men and women who freely volunteered to serve in RAF Bomber Command, which had the highest attrition rate of all the armed forces of all the partaking nations during the whole of the conflict.

As you can probably appreciate, the fictionalisation relates several deaths of military personnel and civilians, wartime hardship and suffering. In order to preserve their precious memories and do the story justice, it will need a complete overhaul and re-structuring. What I hope to create is a three-book series covering the period from just prior to War being declared until the process of de-mob and the return to civilian life.

BP

## WHEN I'M GONE

Don't visit my grave when I am gone.  
Unless you wish to remember  
For I am not there, I am close by your side  
In the fires last dying embers.

Don't visit my grave when I am gone  
Unless to take me flowers.  
For I am not there, but by your side  
As you while away the hours.

Don't visit my grave when I am gone,  
as it's set in a place full of gloom.  
For I am not there but by your side  
as you read by the light in your room.

Don't visit my grave when I am gone  
For my being is not yet done  
I am by your side watching you smile  
And telling you life must go on.

Do not be sad at the end of the day  
that you did not visit my grave.  
For I am not there but close by your side  
watching you being so brave.

*LORRAINE BUXTON*



*Above: Hunter Boydell, Filmmaker, Founder of Breaking Jar Ltd*

## **INTRODUCING HUNTER**

### **BOYDELL**

Since I was about four years old, I have been totally obsessed with stories, novels, TV shows, games, toy franchises - and of course, films.

As I absorbed all these stories, it didn't take long to see the powerful, positive impact they would make in my own life, in a range of different ways. I would seek out real-world places that resembled the fantasy worlds of the stories, and explore them with delight.

I would even choose the types of clothing I wanted to wear based on the outfits worn by my fictional heroes!

I could quote an entire scene from a favourite film, re-enacting it in the school playground during break time.

I could remember the most obscure character names and complex plot details from stories, probably a lot more easily than real facts or historical dates at school! Stories quickly became a huge part of my consciousness, and a major influence in my everyday reality.

But before long, I discovered that some stories could actually have a very negative effect on me, in the form of intense anxiety.

Whenever I went to the shops with my family, I loved to browse the film and video aisles, enthralled by the many new stories I found there, as I would read the backs of DVD cases and look at all the pictures.



But every time, once we got home from the shops and I was in bed for the night, I would end up lying awake, unable to sleep, terrified by something I had seen that day.

Among the DVDs on offer, there would always be some dark thrillers, some horror films, some revenge films, films in which the whole narrative seemed to take a very twisted angle.

The way these stories presented such horrific subject matter was deeply disturbing to me.

Just reading about it on the DVD cases was enough to send me into a spiral of terror - not just the fact that people might do these things to each other, but that the films were presenting these nightmare scenarios as no big deal.

Actions and choices which would have traumatic consequences in real life were playing out in these films as par for the course. It felt like there was no light to be found in these stories, no hope of redemption, and that terrified me.

So it's safe to say that from an early age, stories have been much more to me than just a pastime or some weekend entertainment.

Stories, and particularly films, can affect me profoundly, moving me to joy or overwhelming me with dread, capturing my imagination, and always provoking a powerful response.

For a long time, this high sensitivity to stories felt like a burden to me, as I found myself having to be so selective in choosing what to watch, and frequently getting caught off-guard and leaving film screenings in a hurry! Where others could just sit down and enjoy whatever film or TV show might be popular, my options were limited.

I was embarrassed, ashamed, worried that people would laugh at me or think me naive or cowardly for avoiding certain stories. It's only recently that I've started to see how my sensitivity could actually be a unique gift - and may just be what sets me apart as a filmmaker today.

For almost as long as I've been watching the work of other storytellers, I've also been practising making my own - first of all with drawing, then with writing, and, from the age of about seven, with video. Filmmaking is a medium I keep coming back to. It encompasses so many different elements, from creativity and design, to technical skills and teamwork. It's immersive, and it's multi-sensory. Film is a powerful language, communicating straight to the heart.

My major breakthrough came when I discovered that stories can reflect our real-life experiences. Previously, my only focus was on using my imagination to the max, creating fantasy worlds and characters like those I loved seeing on screen, without much connection to my own life. Then I found that by looking at parts of my own personal journey, and those of the people close to me, I could draw out pieces of these real experiences and put them into my stories.

I could create something authentic, something meaningful, a human story told in an honest way, while still placing it in a fictional context and genre.

With this kind of honest, human storytelling, I believe we can create films and media that act as mirrors, prompting every viewer to become more self-aware as they watch, inspiring hope in the face of real-life challenges, and perhaps even making space for healing and growth.

***Stories are so much more than entertainment. Stories change lives.***

In a few words, that is the purpose of my production company, Breaking Jar: Stories changing lives.

To this end, Breaking Jar produces original films and media for audiences worldwide.

We also provide tools and resources to help fellow storytellers bring their own films to life.

It's an exciting journey, and I'd love for you to join us! Check out our website to learn more:

[www.breakingjar.com](http://www.breakingjar.com)

***Hunter Boydell, Filmmaker, Founder of Breaking Jar Ltd***

# THE FINAL WORD

## LAST, BUT NOT LEAST .....!!

A few thoughts on the New Year!

Hopefully, you enjoyed a wonderful, restful Festive Season in the way you wanted, with the companions you love, whether you're religious or not. For me, Christmas (as I celebrate it) is a time for goodwill towards all your fellows, be they human, pets or inhabit your space in a different way (as for example with farmers). It's meant as a time to get together and enjoy one another – the connections and similarities we share, and the differences; it's not a crime to be different – or similar!

I personally don't like labels. I think to apply a label to someone is to over-simplify who they are and what they're about, and neither is fair or accurate.

New Year is (traditionally) a time for ‘labelling’ as many of us announce our intention to lose weight, stop smoking, give up alcohol for a month, to name but a few. I have no wish to decry those who try and if that’s what they want, I can be as supportive as the next person. All I would caution (as a top tip to succeed) is that if you do want to (by way of an example) lose weight, you need to work out a way to make the process a habit. To explain a little more – most of us will rise every morning and wash, clean our teeth, etc. These are ingrained habits and we do them automatically. So, if you want to lose weight, it needs to become a process like brushing your teeth: one you do automatically, daily, without the need for a thought process.

Take care everyone – until next time!

BP

**THE END**