

Hello Everyone,

Finally Spring has arrived and the daffodils and primroses are a very welcome sight after such a long, wet and windy winter. This little island took rather a battering from the wind and waves, and ferry services were disrupted but thankfully we didn't suffer the terrible flooding that affected parts of the United Kingdom. It must have been a nightmare experience for those who endured it and I do hope that none of my readers were affected. I was lucky enough to be snug and dry and I found it was a good time to be working away in my study.

LIVERPOOL ANGELS

Mother's Day sales were very encouraging and I've already had some great feedback. And congratulations to everyone who won a signed and dedicated copy for their mums in the Facebook competition!

I've also had some great news from Headline; they will be publishing the paperback in early July this year which is two months ahead of the planned schedule! The cover has been altered slightly and I now think it looks stronger and grittier, very much in keeping with the era. This means that the paperback will be out before the anniversary of the start of the Great War at the beginning of August 1914.

There are so many forthcoming series and documentaries on television and recently I have been following THE CRIMSON FIELD as I understand the writer researched it using the same material about that war I used in LIVERPOOL ANGELS, namely the excellent books of Lyn MacDonald. Well worth hunting them out if you are as interested as I am in that time period. I think LIVERPOOL ANGELS will tie in well to the anniversary commemorations. For those of you who haven't read it it's not too long to wait, perhaps it will be your holiday reading?

FROM LIVERPOOL WITH LOVE

I'm just finishing the alterations my agent suggested for my brand new novel and which I hope will make it a stronger story, so soon it will be going to my editor and I'll await her opinion with some trepidation as I always do!

Even after all these years I never allow myself to think it's a foregone conclusion that she'll be delighted with my latest book. A writer is always too close to the story and the characters to see the errors and omissions, whereas an editor sees it with a fresh eye. If I could leave the manuscript for a year and then go back to it, lots of things would jump out at me but I don't have that luxury and if I did you'd all get very impatient waiting for publication!

At present I'm eagerly waiting to see what Headline have in mind for the cover, how my heroine, workhouse girl Jane Shaw will be portrayed - which is when I see my character become 'real' - and of course which Liverpool backdrop will be used. I'm certain I'll love it because I know how much time and effort (to say nothing of expense) goes into getting the artwork and type style just right.

There will also be a 'Question & Answer' section as extra material at the end of the novel and there is the possibility of a short story is for Amazon to link in with it. So lots of goodies in the pipeline!

Future Plans

I've already got the grain of an idea for my next saga which hopefully will develop over the summer months and then after doing the research I'll be ready to begin writing in September. It will be set in Liverpool during World War II this time and feature three friends, their families, romances and of course tragedies.

Coming as I do from a sea-faring family – and Bob having been in the Merchant Navy in his youth – we both enjoy cruising, and early in the summer we're off to the Baltic on Cunard's Queen Victoria, so while I'm relaxing (there are quite a lot of sea days) I'll have plenty of time to think about developing my characters and storylines, providing I'm not sea sick, as I am a "rubbish" sailor! I have been known to go a shade of green on the Mersey ferry!

Let's hope that after such a dreadful winter we have a really great summer which I hope you will all enjoy and when I'll be back with more news,

Sincerely,
Lyn