

Many of us rediscover our creative muse in later life. Perhaps our focus on career or family meant that pursuing an early love of painting, or ceramics or, in this case writing, took a back seat. Those of us lucky or determined enough to revisit those early dreams come back to their chosen subject with a wealth of experience and knowledge and, in the case of retirees, more time in which to develop their chosen genre.

Sussex-based writer Beverley Elphick is a great example of this, having produced the first two books of a trilogy, 'Three Round Towers' and 'Retribution', in her 60's, doubtless crafted through her fascination and affinity with the area in which she lives.

Beverley says, "I started writing in my early twenties, sending news items to the local papers, most of which were published. My day job, however, was in publishing, distribution and finance.

"After a break to have my children I moved into marketing in the education sector. I created and purchased advertising as well as writing press releases for a local independent girl's school later moving to West Sussex to do the same for a further education college.

"I have two adult children and four grandsons and wrote my first novel when I was 62, the sequel four years later. The completion of the trilogy will be in 2020. I had help along the way from other writers, in particular Rosemary Aitken and Helen Stockton."

Here are some teasers about her third novel, 'Secrets and Saviours', due out later this year. A young woman alone in the late 18th century had a lot to bear. The first two books of the Esther Coad trilogy saw her learn to use her feisty spirit and intelligence to overcome tragedy and the attentions of malicious smugglers whose crimes she thwarted, not because she had lofty ideals but in order to survive and protect the baby girl she rescued and cared for as her own.

Secrets and Saviours puts Esther in a happier place. However, a new generation of Lewes smugglers threatens her existence and the unborn child she carries.

An experienced midwife and intuitive herbalist to the poor and downtrodden, Esther dreams of better things for women who have nothing. Her mettlesome approach to life and inability to turn a blind eye leads her into the clutches of her enemies. Will the forces of law be able to save her?

Set against the backdrop of Lewes, Elphick seamlessly incorporates snippets of historical fact to add colour and depth to this final part of the venturesome trilogy. Visit www.beverleyelphick.com for more info or contact Beverley at info@beverleyelphick.com.

So if you have a passion to be creative, it's never too late – seize the moment!

