**HEATHER VIVIEN SWASH**

Blinded by Dyslexia to the written word, listening was Heather’s route into stories and learning, long after other children were reading for themselves. When the door eventually swung open - aged 11 - the steep climb to catch up with her peers began.

Computers, with their unimaginable ability to correct spellings changed her life. Once she’d mastered the basics, her mum was released from hours of untangling and typing up correspondence to organisations and professionals. Friends began to receive letters they could understand. And when it dawned on her *just* how much she enjoyed the writing process, Heather joined a Creative Writing Class.

Encouraged by her tutor to aim high, she sent the first story she’d written since leaving school to BBC Radio Merseyside. The thrill of hearing her words on Christmas Day 2004 has never dimmed. Over subsequent years a further 18 of Heather’s stories, and a monologue - she *really* wanted to read herself - have been broadcast on their festive program ‘Winter’s Tales.’

Heather’s writes for adults and children, fiction and none fiction, and has been published in a variety of outlets. She’s been placed in several competitions and come tantalisingly close to winning the way to her beloved Swanwick – *twice*!

