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Writers

FORUM



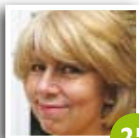
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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Now I know I'm no technophobe because I've happily worked with computers for decades, I write, read and edit on screen in a paperless office, and have even designed websites for friends and family, as well as for this magazine. But I have to admit feeling like a bit of a Luddite when it comes to 'social networking'. No matter how much I've tried to join in, the joys of blogs, MySpace, Facebook and, more recently, Twitter have all eluded me. I know people spend hours updating their pages but I worry that, if I tried, it would bore even my mother, or I'd have nothing left to tell my Friends® when we met in real life.

So it is with some reluctance that I have to accept the importance of social networking for authors today. If you are trying to sell a book, or writing one, it really can make a difference. Alison Baverstock looks at the benefits for authors (p52), while Keris Stainton (p7) explains how she was contacted by a publisher who followed her blog and had readers before she had a book deal. Even agents are at it, if only to vent their spleen, as Matt Shoard shows on page 31. I'd be interested to know how you feel about it.

Write soon, Carl

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