

Inca Author Information Page

Norman Morrow

Currently living in: Kilcock, Co. Kildare, Ireland

Main works: Father McGargles

I started writing because: While participating on an American Fly Fishing forum, a great character and novice angler called Hank, yearned to catch a large trout. I duly obliged by writing a short story – alas the trout escaped as he tried to net it – mean of me. From that humble beginning, I took the forum members on an adventure that lasted several months -‘The Fellowship of the Trout.’ Rough though it was, it was very well received. Feasting on the confidence this gave me, I continued to write. Some I shared with family and friends – some I will rewrite when I can find the time – some is best left to die on whatever computer it resides. My memoirs will be titled, ‘The Accidental Scribbler.’

My main writing interests are: My current book is a mixture of comedy and pathos mixed with wisdom and skulduggery. Like most things in my life, I stumbled into the genre in which I currently write. Almost as much as politicians, I hate people who seem to have a plan. Who knows where this journey may take me – Hollywood, an undiscovered galaxy or a corner in the ‘Local’ with porter dribbling down my chin?

My sources of research and information are: Google has been my guiding light for the small amount of research I required. Sad but true. If Google had been around when I was a nipper, I could have skived off school and still passed the exams. Mind, never ask it to do a Latin translation !!!

My inspiration comes from: In an attempt to write a two page satirical piece on the incessant marketing of fishing tackle suppliers and the exorbitant prices they charge, I decided to present a character trying to flog poor quality fishing tackle – who could be more trustworthy than the local priest? Once his character came into being, the story grew legs, and, users on a UK fishing forum logged on daily, begging for more. What could a man do? Faced with a willing audience who cared not if commas were in the right place, I spent three months feeding their insatiable appetite. So the apprentice moved to Authonomy.com and honed his fledgling skills.

My stories are planned like this: Pull up a stool. Ring home and tell them you won’t be around for a week. Planned? You must be joking. As the characters came to life, I allowed them, or should I say, they allowed me define the scope of the work. In a sense, I became absorbed in breathing life into each character. Even now, post publication, I find myself asking, ‘What would the scheming Father Brennan do to promote this work?’ In a sense, the lines between reality and fiction have become blurred.

I have written a series of books based on: The first in the series, ‘Father McGargles’, is a daft romp, following the life of an errant priest. Father James Brennan is fifty-five and he is surrounded by off- kilter characters in this light-hearted frolic. While there are some poignant moments, and a little homespun wisdom, nothing in it is to be taken seriously – Vatican spies are everywhere! The prequel, ‘Summer of Forbidden Love’ returns to a time when James was a young naive priest with rampant hormones. This will be both a comedy and tragedy, touching on celibacy and clerical abuse – its ultimate aim is to explain why James in the latter years of his life found solace in the pub. Further

novels are planned, including James setting up a reality TV show, 'Priest School' to solve the priest shortage – the result of a drunken bet with an equally crazy priest. 'Shoes of the Fisherman', sees his election as the first Irish Pope and his subsequent murder when he tries to move the Vatican to Ireland. The last, 'The Heavenly River' may have a strong female audience. 'No one ever faced eviction from Heaven, until now.' There he will meet God, his mother.

My future plans are to: For the moment, I'll maintain my interest in comedy, but will at some stage fly the nest and see where the wind takes me.

My own favourite character is: Without any doubt it is Father Brennan. Flawed characters are so hard to resist – in his case, he seems so real, only the brave would say otherwise.

I sometimes find myself thinking like: NO COMMENT! Not even if you plied me with a brandy, Russian Vodka and Poitin cocktail.

I also have a few other books I'd like to highlight as follows: They are hammering on my skull; each and every one of them demanding freedom – watch this space.

My advice to new writers would be: I am of the opinion that many fear their writing is simply not good enough. Early on, as I began to have my drafts critiqued by far more experienced authors, my confidence took a dip. Another writer said to me, 'No matter how good your writing is, there is always someone better.' That advice has stood me in good stead.

Writing has its ups and downs: The best is unquestionably becoming lost in the world and characters you create. The worst aspect, apart from the pay, is the daily sword fight with commas.

When I'm not writing: Change nappies, pretend I'm working, coach rugby and hurling, do taxi for the kids, scoff chocolates, fly fish – and dream of waking some morning without one of the children's feet in my face.

For copy editing and proofreading: Fellow writers have generously given of their time in the editing process. For my next work, I hope to have a professional editor do the fine tuning.

I accept criticism from: I welcome all criticism. As the saying goes, NO PAIN, NO GAIN.

My experiences with self-publishing: Self-publishing proved much easier than I expected. A few technical glitches tripped me up along the way. I first published a short story in order to learn the ropes. Self-publishing is relatively easy; self-marketing, aye, there's the rub. The high was the anticipation of first paperback rolling in the letterbox. The low is those lonely moments when self-doubt tries to consume your enthusiasm. Luckily, I do not travel this path alone. Encouragement from fellow authors, many of them Inca members, cleared the mist and, the next hurdle and challenge is faced with gusto.

I promote my books via: When I figure that out, I'll sell my secrets to the highest bidder.

My favourite mainstream authors are: Tough one that. It is like baring one's soul. Wilbur Smith, Leon Uris, James Clavelle and Walter Macken – all masterful story tellers within the world of HF.

I am currently reading: Currently reading 'The King's Jew' by Darius Stransky, eBook and working my way through other INCA writers. Fair talent in there!

I prefer to read books in: I prefer paperback but am enjoying the versatility of the kindle.

A bit about my other interests: I can't curl my tongue and thus pronounce Kerry as Curry – so if you ask me for directions to Co. Kerry ... heat the spices before incinerating the chicken.

My most unattainable ambition is: To have the Vatican moved to Ireland.

Last thoughts before we go down the pub/club/library/boot-sale/exercise yard: Yep, whose round is it? – You can have this one on the INCAS Norman. – Thank you for sharing.

Author Links

Website: www.fatherbrennan.com

Amazon Author page: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Norman-Morrow/e/B00Q9NGAOC>

Twitter: @fatherjpb

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100006010660025&ref=ts) profile.php?id=100006010660025&ref=ts

Any other links: www.incaproject.co.uk of course