



'IN THE SPOTLIGHT'

Each month we put a different person 'in the spotlight' and pose 12 wide-ranging questions to them. This month, we feature Cotswold & Vale Magazine editor, Crucial PR consultant and EFoW supporter **Lynne Powell**.

1. Tell us an interesting fact about yourself that not many people know.

I'm a good listener (as befits my job)...except when it comes to directions when I'm lost and have to ask the way. I'm rubbish at that. I hear the first bits "Go left at the church, right at the crossroads" and then my mind wanders off, wondering about the Sunday services and what my kind human satnav's backstory is. It can be a curse – a 12 mile round cycle trip from the apt-sounding Gaasper Camping to Amsterdam turned into a 42 mile marathon – and a blessing – we met some wonderfully friendly people. If only we'd actually listened to them. Eventually we were so far astray that when we asked the way to the city centre, people started to reply "which city?".

2. What book made most impact on you as a child?

It's a toss up between Alan Garner's spellbinding *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen* and Evan Hunter's astonishing *The Blackboard Jungle* (I sneaked into the adult section of the library). Both revealed extraordinary new worlds.

3. What is your favourite film, and why?

Luchino Visconti's beautiful, tragic *Death in Venice*, with Dirk Bogarde as the composer Gustav von Aschenbach. The death scene, besmeared by melting make-up and hair dye, far outstrips even Marlon Brando's last moments in *The Godfather*. Oh and it features the wonderful Mahler's 5th.

4. What are your main hobbies/interests, apart from reading, of course?

Gardening, walking, cycling and travel (with satnav).

5. What would be the three things you would like to have if you were stranded on a desert island?

A library, moisturiser and a chef.

6. What would a look at your bookshelves tell us about you?

Goodness, she's had a good clear out! I decluttered with gusto after a house fire, keeping only books I knew I'd read again. Since you ask, they range from Virginia Woolf and Elizabeth von Arnim, to DH Lawrence and Franz Kafka. Now I usually buy, read and pass on.



7. If you could invite any three people, dead or alive, to a dinner party, who would they be, and why?

NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, because she was a super bright trailblazer (I hope we'll also chat about the Fibonacci sequence, which I've become mildly obsessed with); JMW Turner (I'm wildly obsessed with his paintings) and Lee Mack, of course.

8. What kind of music do you like, and is there one favourite soundtrack?

All sorts, from Mahler to heavy rock. Fave soundtrack depends on the mood: Python Lee Jackson's In a Broken Dream; Nickleback's Savin Me, and always The Commitments' Mustang Sally.

9. What are your favourite charities/good causes, and why?

Any that support those suffering, especially homeless people, children and those with mental health issues. A helping hand can be the most powerful way to change lives.

10. Who is the person who has influenced you most/you most admire?

Heavens, that tough! I admire, and am inspired by, people who make an impact, in a good way, whether that's by being creative, innovative, thoughtful or simply by being kind.

11. What is your connection to Evesham?

We bought our first house here when I was offered a weekly newspaper editorship, although I later moved to a Birmingham daily. Love the countryside, riverside, the people and the soil.

12. What would you list as your greatest achievement to date?

Resolutely being a glass half full sort of person.