

**Recently published:  
Third novel by Shropshire author Anthony Bloor**

Simon Siabod Publishing has recently published a third novel by the Shropshire author Anthony Bloor, titled *The Messenger*.

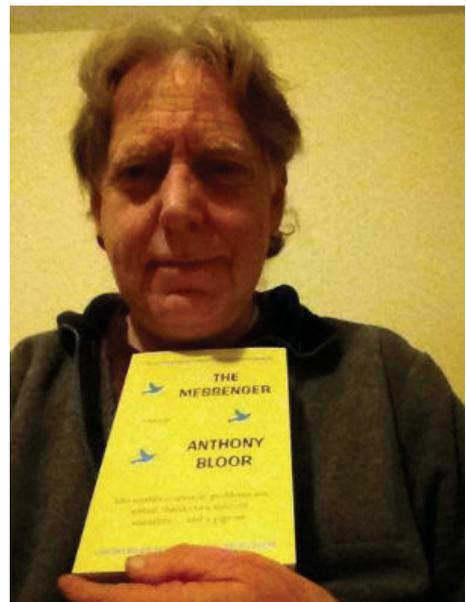
*The Messenger* tells the story of a woman who lives alone in an isolated part of the English countryside and whose life is turned upside down when a racing pigeon arrives at her cottage, followed by a group of strangers and a violent confrontation.

As the novel unfolds, it turns out that the strangers are members of a research team who are working on a secret project that's aiming to solve the world's economic problems. But why are they searching for a pigeon?

In a novel that features biotechnology, scientists, farmers and local eccentrics, the mystery is only solved via a psychological game of bluff and counter-bluff in which the scientists plan a romantic meal but are cajoled into doing a spot of gardening.

The author says the novel is partly based on his experience of living in the Corvedale, where he lived for eight years before moving to Church Stretton in 2004.

"I used to do a weekly shop," he says, "and you had to be organised about it because there were only two buses a week, so you couldn't afford to forget anything. I don't drive, and the lack of public transport in those parts meant you had to walk a lot to get anywhere. Which was good for me because I like walking and it kept me fit. I really enjoyed the experience of living there, and I have fond memories of all the locals I got to know, many of whom caught the same bus week after week."



But the novel is also based on his experience of computing. "I've worked with computers on and off for the last 40 years," he says, "and I've had a long-standing fascination with alternative technologies. The novel uses research into biocomputing, a technology that relies on biochemicals rather than silicon as the basic material. Part of the story is an imaginative use of such techniques to create a fictional research project."

Apart from working as a computer programmer, the author has also worked in academia. "Part of the joy in writing the novel," he says, "was in bringing these two worlds together, the world of academia and the world of farmers and country folk. I guess you could call it, 'Tomorrow's World meets The Archers.'"

The novel is priced at £9.99 and is available to order from your local bookshop or online via the publisher's website at [www.simonsiabod.com](http://www.simonsiabod.com).