**Different Genes is author Claire Baldry’s debut novel. It tells how sixty-one year old Louise embarks on a quest to unlock the secrets of her past, whilst building a relationship with her new companion and lover, Simon.**

**The author is happy to be contacted with queries or receive requests to give talks to book-clubs. For more details go to** [**www.clairebaldry.co.uk**](http://www.clairebaldry.co.uk)

1. How did the post-war values of the 1950s impact on Louise’s life?
2. Bearing in mind the circumstances of Louise’s birth, do you think it was wrong for her mother to hide the fact that she was adopted?
3. Did you find the character of Bob believable? What were the triggers which set off his stalking behaviour?
4. The narrative in Different Genes relies on a large ‘backstory’. Did this enhance or impede your enjoyment of the novel?
5. Both Louise and Simon have been married previously. To what extent does this have an effect on their relationship?
6. Is this book a believable portrayal of love in later life?
7. Can you identify some of the ways in which the author uses humour to enhance the narrative?
8. In the final chapter the author moves from the past to the present tense. What effect does this have on the reader?
9. Most of the settings in this novel are based on ‘real’ places. Did this appeal to you or do you prefer to read about fictional places.
10. Different Genes is a debut novel. What advice would you give to the author when she writes her next book?