

New journey as an author for Sue the nomad

BY LAURA CHURCHILL

A GLOBETROTTING author has published her first novel.

It features characters from her hometown of Cheltenham and the more exotic places she has lived in the past.

Sue Cross's book, *Tea at Sam's*, tells the story of three Cheltenham women all returning to the town after living abroad.

Sue, from Montpellier, has lived in Mauritius, Hong Kong and Australia with her husband Peter and has used her expat experiences as inspiration for the novel.

In the book, the three women meet at an art class and use their new friendship to help them in their journey of self-discovery.

Sue, a grandmother of two, lived abroad for many years while her husband worked as a surveyor.

The pair has visited more than 50 countries.

They lived in Mauritius for more than two years in the late 1960s, Hong Kong for ten years from 1970 and they also spent four months in Sydney, Australia during the 1970s.

She said: "My husband had the wanderlust and I followed him as a dutiful wife. Life as an expat then was very different to what it is today. We never went with the flow. We made a lot of local friends and broke away from some of the expats. We got to see the real countries rather than the rather superficial way of life."

Sue said her descriptions of places were based on her experiences.

She started writing by accident when she tried to sign up to an art class in Spain that was full six years ago.

She did not fancy bird watching and, as she wrote poems and plays as a child, she decided to join the literature class. On her return to Cheltenham, she wanted to continue with her hobby and joined the town's University of the Third Age writing group.

Work on her first novel started in 2008 and she is now working on a sequel, which she hopes to finish next year.

Sue's book is dedicated to her husband – she said he put up with a withdrawn and occupied wife while she was writing.

On her return to England in the early '80s, the businesswoman set up Susan Molyneux Cosmetics.

The mail order company is still running today, after she sold it before her retirement.

She said: "It is really nice being back in Cheltenham. I moved here when I was 16 and we have a lot of friends in the area. We have no plans to leave anytime soon."

Her book, *Tea at Sam's*, is available from Amazon for £7.99 or as a download for £2.83.