

# CHRISTOPHER BREESE meets a young Notts novelist whose inspirations include J K Rowling

**A** NOTTS author who hopes to one day rival Harry Potter creator J K Rowling has launched his first book. James Stuart said the idea for *The Legend of the Hall Prophecy* came to him on a train journey a few years ago.

His dream of getting it into print came true when it was unveiled to an audience of about 40 people at Hyson Green Library on Saturday.

The Wollaton author's book tells the story of Charlie Stuart, a young boy who is accepted into Dragonstone, a kind of school where he learns about the art of magic and how to become a knight. And James now hopes the novel will be the first in a series of Dragonstone books.

James, 39, said he used several locations in Notts as settings for the book.

Charlie's family is from Eanor – a name based on Heanor, Derbyshire, and Dragonstone itself is based on Wollaton Hall. Sherwood Forest also features as a location inspiration in part of the book.

James said: "That moment on a train eventually led to me putting pen to paper and then suddenly more and more ideas came.

"Before I knew it I had the spine of the stories for eight books.

"I started writing and then there were even more ideas. They all went into this novel, which I never expected to write."

The book has been published by Notts firm PJJ Publishing and is available on Amazon.

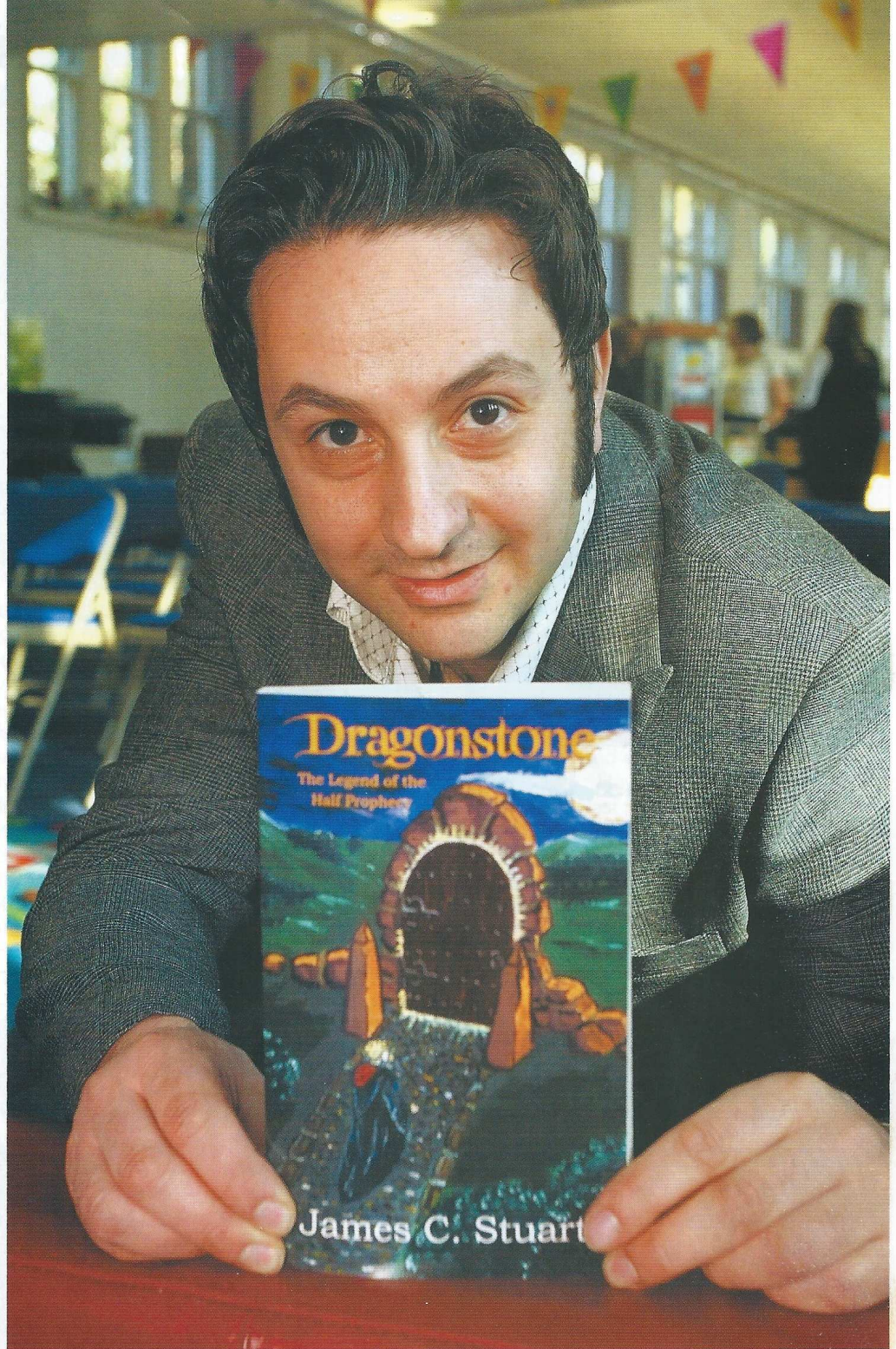
James said talks are also underway to have the book on the shelves at a major book retailer and supermarket chain.

James, a pre-school teacher who hopes to turn to writing full-time, added: "There's no set cookie-cutter reader, because I want my books to appeal to everyone despite being written for young adults of 11-plus.

"From adults reading alone and children reading in their bedrooms, all the way to families reading together, Charlie's story will appeal to anyone with a bold imagination and an open mind."

He added that Shakespeare, Enid Blyton and Harry Potter creator J K Rowling had helped inspire his love of words, fantasy worlds and children's fiction.

His work has already won the backing of the city council's libraries service, which arranged for him to launch it at the library to



*James at a signing at Hyson Green library.*

# EANOR? OH!

coincide with World Book Day and printed posters publicising the event.

Laura Iremonger, a librarian for the city council's children and families department, said: "We see it as an opportunity to promote a local author.

"It's a good way to get young people and families into libraries and into books.

"It does feel vibrant on the children's book side of things and the kind of books they like can be the same as 50 years ago.

"Classics like James and the Giant Peach

(written by Roald Dahl and published in 1961) are still popular."

Since its release, the first Dragonstone volume has garnered a consistent string of rave reviews by readers posting comments on Amazon.

Dragonstone: The Legend of the Half Prophecy is published by Pjj Publishing and is available on Amazon.

● For more information, visit the author's official website: [www.dragonstonebook.com](http://www.dragonstonebook.com)