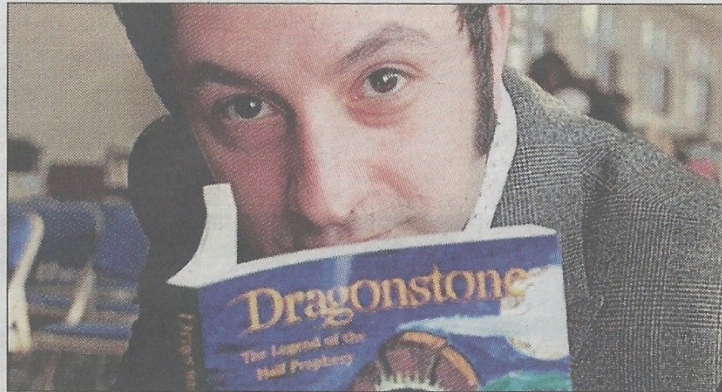


Local author in the spotlight: James C. Stuart

Dragonstone – The Legend of the Half Prophecy is James' first book. The pre-school teacher turned author, from Wollaton, tells the story of Charlie Stuart who is accepted into Dragonstone's school of magick. Sounds familiar...?



FOR ME, inspiration truly hit with an epiphany of a new school of magick located at Wollaton Hall, whilst on a train journey.

Dismissed as fanciful concept, the idea burned into my consciousness for weeks until one day, I had enough and put pen to paper. The creative gateways opened and I obtained incredible details within a few hours.

Twelve months passed and I had the outlines for seven or eight books.

However, a personal thought-battle ensued due to the Harry Potter series having already been written and popularised in films, albeit Dragonstone being different.

On publication, a reader from Belgium told me I had renewed their interest in the subject. I was hoping for this jackpot statement.

Being dubbed, 'Nottingham's very own JK Rowling', was another major boost to me and for the book's cause.

I think a lot of people were upset when Harry Potter finished. This created a huge void.

I feel it will naturally be compared because it's based around a school of magick. Whilst I'm not trying to out-do Harry Potter I really want people to enjoy a brand new story and involve themselves in the characters.

Dragonstone begins with some magickal scene-setting.

We are introduced to a courageous Charlie who defends a young lad against a school bully.

On receiving good news from Dragonstone, a mysterious shadow entity makes an appearance to Charlie. The entity makes regular timely appearances to Charlie, but is it a friend to him?

Uprooted from Derbyshire to Nottinghamshire, the family visit Dragonstone School to meet the headmistress. It transpires that all of Charlie's family move to the Magicklands.

The story uses Notts locations that will feature more as the series progresses.

The writing is descriptive and imaginative and there is a strong moral edge for children as well as a good dose of humour too.

One reader described the book as having rich, descriptive language that made them feel they were there sharing the adventure.

And Judith Fox, one of the area managers of Nottingham City Council library service, said it was a good read for both boys and girls.

The book is target towards 11+, but it has generated wider appeal as the reviews – some international – have shown.

Dragonstone has received local authority backing from both Nottingham City and Notts County Councils and a book tour is under way. I will be talking about the book at a free event Wollaton Library on Monday, April 29, from 10am to 11am.

I have also been invited to promote my book at the Robin Hood Festival at Sherwood Forest nature reserve and visitor centre in August.

● Available from Amazon priced £7.99.