

Meet the Author

ROB LEWIS

I was born in a respectable London suburb in July 1962, but little did the world know what was to come ...

Even in the early days at school in Bath, dangerous creative tendencies were beginning to show. My English teacher had to mark stories that took up whole exercise books. Academic work promised Oxford University, but parties and laziness resulted in only one 'O' Level – in Art! In the sixth form, things went from bad to worse. I became involved in New Age culture: flying saucers, leylines, stone circles and peppermint tea! My nickname was Mr Daydream. My head was in the clouds.

After 'A' level and 'O' Level resits, the crunch came in 1981. The only people willing to take me were a motley crew of lecturers on the Foundation Course in Filton, Bristol – a desolate place surrounded by British Aerospace airfields and an army of gas fitters. Then Bristol Polytechnic unwisely offered me a place on their Graphic Design degree course, but I squandered my time playing in a rock band and making beer commercials.

On leaving college I turned to the dangerous world of children's books, dragging my wife with me ...

In 1990 I was finally taken away to the remote Welsh hills for therapy at an isolated seven-acre smallholding.

Now I lead a simple life gardening, playing music and fooling around on the computer. They even let me out from time to time to entertain children in schools and libraries.



Books by Rob Lewis

The first five titles are also available in Welsh – see below:

- Cold Jac** Hoppers Series £4.99 (Gwasg Gomer)
Winner of the Tir na n-Og Award 2003
- What's Up, Jac?** Hoppers Series £4.99 (Gwasg Gomer)
- It's Gone, Jac!** Hoppers Series £4.99 (Gwasg Gomer)
- Friends** £5.50 (Bodley Head)
- Friends Together** £4.99 (Gwasg Gomer/Red Fox)
- The Lord is My Shepherd** £7.99 (Lion)
- Brothers and Sisters** £5.99 (Hodder)
- Totally Trevor** £3.99 (Red Fox)
- Bye, Bye Bozwell Bear** £4.99 (Bodley Head/Red Fox)
- Trevor's Boat Hunt** £3.99 (Random House)

- O Diolch, Nain!** Cyfres Llyffantod £4.95 (Gwasg Gomer)
- Beth sy, Jac?** Cyfres Llyffantod £4.99 (Gwasg Gomer)
- Ble mae e, Jac?** Cyfres Llyffantod £4.99 (Gwasg Gomer)
- Ffrindiau** £2.00 (Gwasg Gomer)
- Pawb Gyda'i Gilydd** £5.50 (Gwasg Gomer)



2006 Llundain: Hedd ap Emlyn



Meet The Author Questionnaire

ROB LEWIS

Date of Birth 16th July 1962

Where were you born and brought up? I was born in London, and brought up in Dolgellau and Bath.

Where did you go to school? Beechen Cliff School, Bath.

What did you particularly like and dislike about school? I liked everything about school, particularly our very eccentric teachers. I suppose the only thing I didn't like was homework!

What did you want to be, as a child? An artist, then an archaeologist, then a forester, then a film editor.

What was your favourite book as a child? *Stag Boy* by William Rayner.

Do you have any hobbies? Gardening, writing and playing music (guitar and keyboards).

What makes you happy? Playing music.

What makes you angry? When the Internet doesn't work!

When did you start to write? In 1986 when I wrote my first book, though I used to write exercise-book length stories for my English homework, much to my English teacher's horror. He had to read and mark them!

Which one was your first book? My first book was *Hello, Mr Scarecrow*.

Do you find it easy to write? It varies. Sometimes the ideas and the words just flow, and at other times I can sit at my table twiddling my thumbs or staring into space. The only thing to do then is go off and do something completely different.

Where do you write? Mainly on the train travelling to schools and libraries. I have a little notebook computer for the purpose.

From where do you get your ideas? All sorts of places. From things people say, places I go, dreams, the Internet, TV, other books. The important thing to do is whenever or wherever you get an idea, you write it down quickly before you forget it. I have a special little notebook for my ideas, but I've scribbled an idea down on the back of a train ticket or a till receipt before now.

Are there any themes/subjects that appeal to you especially? I tend to write animal books, as I'm best at illustrating animals. They tend to be humorous in some way too, and have some sort of moral to them – but not in a preachy or heavy way. I also like illustrating the backgrounds with some scenes from the local Radnorshire countryside.

Have you won any awards or accolades? I won the Tir Na n-Og award for *Cold Jac* in 2003.

What advice would you give someone who is starting to write? Read, read, read, read, read. Then start to write.

Are some of your characters based on yourself? Not really, though I have about as much hair as one of my characters, Trevor the turtle!

Which of your books is your favourite? *Cold Jac* for the story, *Brothers and Sisters* for the pictures, though it was the longest, hardest and most tiring book to illustrate.

Which is your favourite character? Trevor in *Tidy Up Trevor*, *Totally Trevor*, *Trevor's Boat Hunt* etc.

Is there something you would like to change about yourself? I'd like to be more disciplined about work. Any excuse and I'm off round the garden or ... just anything to avoid working!

Which are your favourite television programmes? *Scooby Doo* (the old episodes) and any crime drama like *Midsomer Murders*, *Dalziel and Pascoe*, *Foyle's War*, *Jonathan Creek* etc. etc.

What is your favourite food? Cheese! Any sort from smelly to mild.

What makes you laugh? Nearly everything! But especially my son Tim's inventions. He once made a go-cart with a car battery and a starter motor, taking the whole summer holidays to build it. When he switched it on it would only go backwards!

