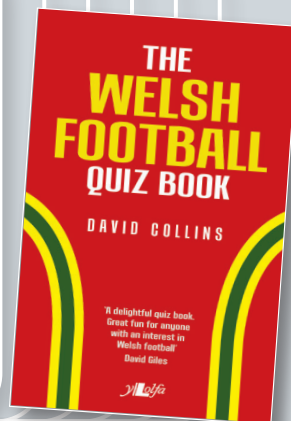


DAVID COLLINS



Name: David Collins

Where did you grow up? Splott, in Cardiff

What was the best / worst thing about your school?
Best – learning about Wales/Cardiff history and culture.
Worst – not getting picked for the football team!

What did you want to be when you grew up?
An office junior taking the post round (honest!)

What are your hobbies? Football, churchy stuff, gardening, spicy food, making my garden grow, music that's too young for me.

What was your favourite book when you were young? A Christmas Carol

When did you consider being an author?
Since for ever. I always liked writing stories, especially about my experiences

Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular? Things that have happened to me.

What advice can you give to budding authors?
Read lots. Reading brings you in touch with the concentrated thoughts of others. Have fun with words, make words do tricks.

Do you have any rituals when you write?
I start with the title. The rest just follows

What's the best / worst part about being an author?
It's hard when others edit your work, but they probably know best. To see your book on sale in a real shop on a real bookshelf though.... that is some thrill. I have plugged my work online, on radio, bilingually, at book signings, at the Eisteddfod and even on national TV. I have written for myself and for others but the thrill of picking your own book off the shelf in the high street beats all.

Quick fire questions:

What's your favourite childhood book?
5 Find Outers by Enid Blyton

Who's your favourite character from a children's book? Fatty from 5 Find Outers.

Where is your favourite place to write?
At the kitchen table

What's your favourite food? Curry

What's your favourite film or show?
The Muppets.

What's is your favourite word? Cariad

What would be your superpower of choice? The ability to put words into other people's mouths.

Favourite social media network? Twitter

What makes you smile? My best friends

If not an author, what would you be?
Probably something in local government

What's your advice for budding writers?
Read lots