

# your weekend

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## Why I'm telling tales

IT'S NOT EVERY MUM WHO EMBARKS ON A FIVE-HOUR WRITING MARATHON WHEN SHE THINKS "I COULD WRITE A BETTER STORY THAN THAT". BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO SCHOOLTEACHER LYNNE HALLETT. READ HER FANTASTIC STORY: PAGE 18

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Welcome in 2015

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Mike Pryce

# Writer's imagination was fired by bedtime tales for her children

It's not every mum who embarks on a five-hour writing marathon when she thinks "I could write a better story than that"

FOR most parents, reading a book to send the children to sleep at bedtime is an end in itself. Wait until little heads are dropping, then tuck them in, turn out the light and disappear downstairs to finish the washing up, the ironing or even put your feet up and catch a bit of television.

It's not supposed to galvanise mum into such an adrenalin rush that she disappears into the study, starts writing her own stories and doesn't stop for five hours.

But that's exactly what happened to Lynne Hallett and had led to the Malvern school teacher publishing her first three books. Called *There's a Mouse in the House*, *Who cut up the Moon?* and *Awesome Adventures*, they're pitched at the under fives and enhanced by some colourful illustrations from Roz Wolseley-Charles, who has really brought the narrative to life.

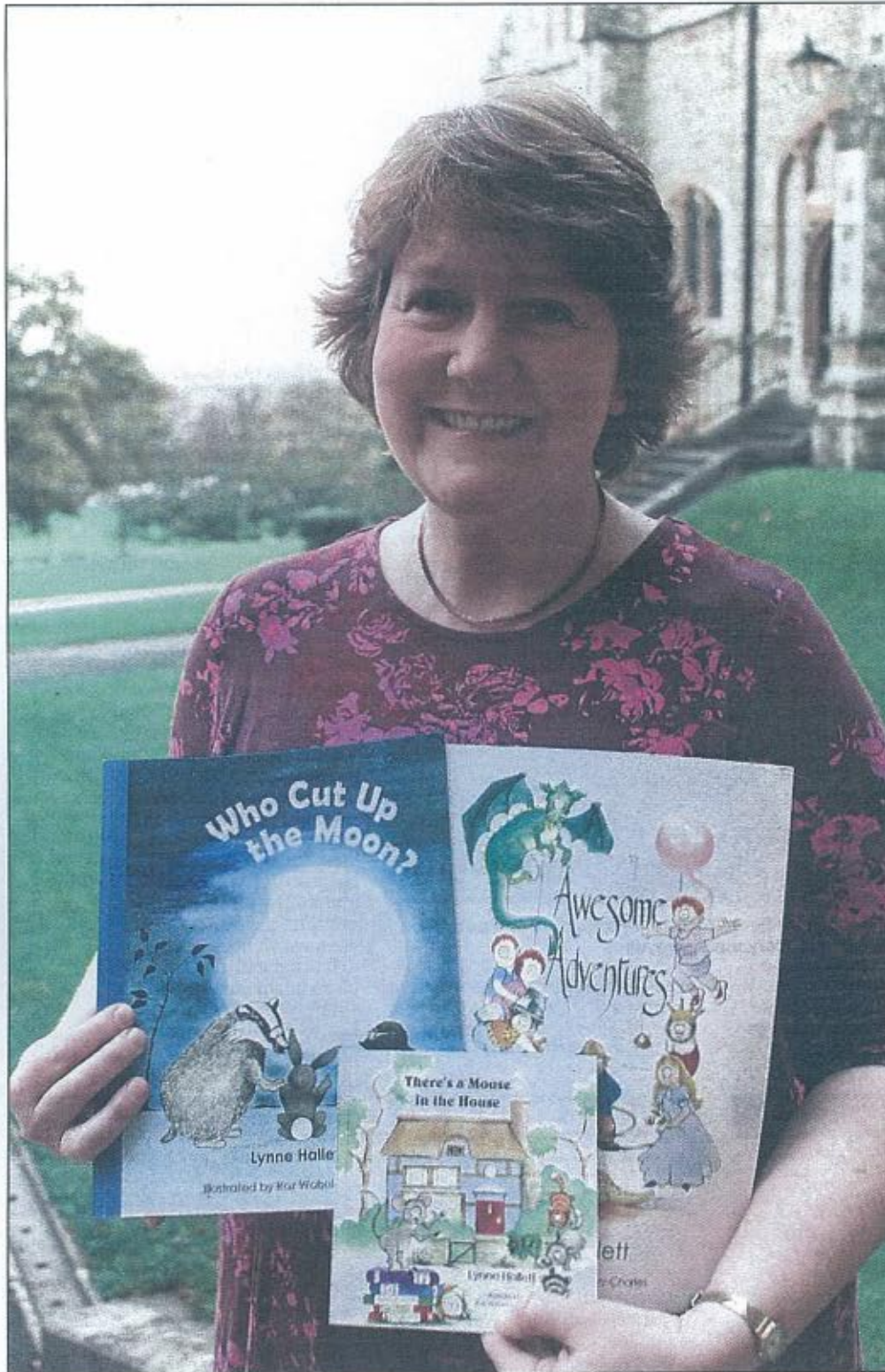
For the day job, Lynne is a teacher of English and drama at Malvern College and has been writing in her spare time for seven years. "I've always loved English," she said. "I did an MA because I found it a really interesting subject."

Together with husband Tim, who is a history master at the Royal Grammar School Worcester, Lynne came down from York in 1998 and has been on the staff at Malvern College ever since.

Her eureka moment as far as authorship was concerned, really did occur one evening after reading her own two small boys a book at bedtime. "I thought, 'I could do that'," she added and promptly spent the rest of the evening and well into the night working on the story of Paddy the Pup, a rhyming tale that hasn't yet seen the commercial light of day. Fired by the realisation that she could pen a decent piece, Helen entered Paddy the Pup into a competition for children's writing. Although she didn't win, the organisers said some nice things about her work and so Helen enrolled on a course that taught writing for children, both fiction and non-fiction.

Then came an unexpected bequest and some positive feedback from children at The Downs School in Malvern, to whom she had read her stories on World Book Day back in March. This encouraged Lynne to take the next step and get her work published.

The result was a folder full of stories which she took along to Aspect Design in Malvern to find out whether any of them were indeed worth publishing. The response was very enthusiastic, but, as with most children's books, they needed illustrating, because good pictures are an essential for anything aimed at young children.



BOOKS: Author Lynne Hallett and her three new books. Right, illustrations from the books

As a result Lynne was put in touch with local artist Roz Wolseley-Charles, who has really brought the words to life.

"Roz is amazingly talented," said Lynne, "and the Aspect Design team have also been wonderful in making my books look so professional and offering me advice and support

every step of the way. To see my stories in print is a dream come true."

So far there are three of them, each in a separate book. *There's a Mouse in the House* is a rhyming count-to-ten-and-back-again tale; *Who Cut Up the Moon?* is a prize-winning picture book about three

animal friends who try to find the missing piece of the moon; while *Awesome Adventures* contains two humorous rhyming stories in which the heroes find themselves in sticky situations.

All are aimed very much at the under sevens and the quality of the art work really is the icing on the

cake. So if you are having trouble putting the junior members of the family on that morning town ride, then the moon, the mouse and the adventure might just do the trick.

Lynne's books are available from Amazon, via [www.aspect-design.net](http://www.aspect-design.net), and outlets around Malvern with more titles planned for 2015.

